Foreign
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ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-052
Monday
18 March 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

Foreign Ministry 'Positive' to Minesweeper Plan

OW1503010891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1434 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency on Thursday showed positive attitudes toward a plan to dispatch Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers to help remove about 1,000 mines laid by Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told a parliamentary committee that the Government is obliged to seek ways to protect Japanese sailors in the area and will discuss the proposal to send minesweepers with the Seafarers' Union.

"It is not acceptable to be concerned only about the safety of Japanese ships," he said.

However, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the same committee that the Government has not yet formed an opinion on sending the minesweepers.

Former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, at a ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] meeting on Thursday, favored the plan to dispatch the minesweepers.

Asked for comment by reporters on Watanabe's call, Kaifu said Watanabe "is not a government official. It is his personal opinion."

Vice Defense Minister Tomoharu Yoda expressed willingness to go along with the plan.

He said dispatching minesweepers would be legally possible because Article 99 of the Self-Defense Forces Law stipulates minesweeping as one function of the MSDF.

While a top government official said a request from the United Nations or a country concerned such as Kuwait would be required, Yoda told reporters Japan could dispatch minesweepers to the high seas even without any such request.

He said, however, that minesweepers could be sent into other countries' territorial waters only if the countries concerned asked for them.

A transport ship would have to accompany the minesweepers to carry drinking water and fuel, he said.

Taizo Terashima, chief of the Defense Agency's Joint Staff Council, said the MSDF has a world-class minesweeping capability, so it could carry out the mission if a political decision is made.

While U.S. President George Bush called on Kaifu to send minesweepers to the Gulf shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August 2, a government source said, the U.S. has not made any such request since the Gulf war ended.

Mutsuki Kato, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, said Wednesday that the U.S. had asked Japan to help remove mines in the Gulf, but he retracted that remark Thursday, saying no country has officially called on Japan to send minesweepers.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said the government would make a decision after gauging public opinion and debate in the Diet.

The No. 2 opposition Komeito, which holds the balance of power in the opposition-controlled Upper House, has said it would oppose sending the ships.

A plan drawn up in January to send SDF transport planes to fly war refugees to safety drew fierce criticism from opposition parties, most of which oppose an international role for Japan's military.

The planes have not been deployed because international refugee relief agencies have not asked for them.

Japan considered dispatching minesweepers to the Persian Gulf during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, but the plan was dropped for fear that Japan could be dragged into the war.

Then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said in 1987 that the move would not violate the Constitution.

Germany, which also has constitutional limits on military use, already has announced it intends to send minesweepers to the Gulf.

Kaifu Urged To Send Minesweepers

OW1803124691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Fukuoka, March 18 KYODO—A leading member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday pressed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to send Japanese minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, told supporters in Fukuoka Prefecture that the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) should be doing more to help restore order in the Gulf.

Watanabe said Japan should send SDF vessels to the Gulf area as part of efforts to restore war-devastated Arab nations after the war.

Other nations have not praised Japan despite its 9 billion dollars in financial assistance to the U.S.-led multinational forces, he said.

"Since Japan annually spends as much as 4 trillion yen supporting the Self-Defense Forces, I want the SDF to perform its duties very well," he said.

Watanabe was in Fukuoka on a campaign stop for the upcoming prefectural governor's election.

Jordanian Relief Official Calls For Aid

OW1703131291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, March 17 KYODO—A senior official of Jordan's Red Crescent Society Sunday called on Japan to give emergency aid to Iraq, which he said faces serious shortages of food and medical supplies because of the Persian Gulf war.

Mohammad Hadid, the society's vice president, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Iraqis face serious hardships in their daily lives because of the war. He visited Baghdad March 12-15.

There is little likelihood water supplies and electricity will be restored soon, said Hadid, who asks that Japan donate large generators and water purification equipment to Iraq.

He said Iraqi people are in great need of wheat flour, medical supplies, and powdered milk for infants.

United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq have nearly drained the country's flour supplies, he said. The U.N. imposed a trade embargo on Iraq after the country invaded Kuwait last August.

Iraq normally imported 700 million dollars worth of medical goods every year, but no imported supplies have entered the country since August, he said.

Iraq has so far received medical supplies worth 15 million dollars from international humanitarian groups. Hadid, however, said the donations were only a drop in the bucket.

Iraq most needs financial assistance from Japan, which has offered too little help to war-devastated nations, he said.

He thanked Japan for giving 2 million dollars for refugee aid, but he said Japan's assistance to Iraq since the war has been too small, compared with 9 billion dollars paid to the U.S.-led multinational forces.

Ministry Sources Remark on USSR Referendum

OW1803060591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—The results of a referendum held Sunday on four Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido as to whether the islands should be returned to Japan will not affect negotiations between Japan and the Soviet Union on the issue, Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

"If you ask the possibility of the return of the four islands in this way, it is natural that there will be a lot of negative answers," a ministry source said. "I don't think there will be any influence on the bilateral talks from now on."

The interim returns of the nonbinding referendum, released Monday, showed that 70.2 percent of the voters in the Southern Kuril District—Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai Islands—opposed returning the islands to Japan and 21.9 percent favored such a move.

Ministry sources said the number of those who approved the return was larger than expected.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will probably not be fettered by the referendum results if he makes a political decision on the territorial issue during his scheduled April 16-19 visit to Japan, although he may use it as a card for negotiating with Japan, the sources said.

The islands issue has been a major obstacle to improving Soviet- Japanese relations and is expected to be a major issue during Gorbachev's visit.

Spokesman Comments

OW1803132791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan's top spokesman on Monday said the territorial dispute with the Soviet Union over four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido remains a governmental matter, despite referendum results showing a majority of the islanders prefer to remain in Soviet hands.

"The views of the local people will be a reference, but basically this is an issue between two governments," Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said when asked about early returns of a referendum held in the islands Sunday.

Initial poll results showed 70 percent of residents on Kuril Island and what Soviets call southern Kuril Islands, including Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomais, want to remain under the Soviet flag, while 22 percent said they favored having the islands returned to Japan.

Results from the fourth island, Etorofu, were not immediately known, although local officials were quoted saying a majority of islanders were opposed to changing the status quo.

The nonbinding referendum was conducted in conjunction with a nationwide vote on whether the Soviet Union should remain intact.

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said they did not expect the results to significantly influence bilateral talks on the return of the islands, which have been occupied by the Soviet Union since World War II.

But they suggested it will strengthen Soviet President Mikhail Goorbachev's negotiating leverage during his planned April 16-19 visit to Tokyo.

The sources said the poll results came as no suprise, but said they were heartened to learn that one in five voters embraced the idea of returning the islands.

"If you ask about the posibility of the return of the four islands in this way, it is natural that there will be a lot of negative answers," one official said.

The question of ownership of the islands is the largest stumbling block to improved Soviet-Japanese relations.

Further on USSR CPSU Official's Visit

OW1503150691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—A senior Soviet Communist Party official on Friday praised a trip to Moscow in 1990 by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe for having put the bilateral ties between Japan and the Soviet Union on a course of constructive dialogue, Japanese officials said.

Valentine Falin, head of the party's International Affairs Bureau, told Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that Abe's visit was significant and brought "changes from previous approaches on both sides," a ministry official said.

Abe, a major faction leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], met with President Mikhail Gorbachev in January 1990 and the two agreed to start comprehensive dialogue to upgrade the relationship.

Among other things, Gorbachev reportedly told Abe that Japan had a right to argue Japan's claim for Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido. His comment was regarded as having substantially changed the Soviet stance toward the the matter, which has long been stalling bilateral ties.

Falin, one of Gorbachev's foreign policy advisers, was responding to a reference Nakayama made about Abe's Moscow trip.

Falin came to Tokyo to welcome the inauguration Thursday of a Japan-Soviet Parliamentarians' League made up mostly of LDP lawmakers belonging to Abe's intra-party faction.

Falin told Nakayama that Gorbachev, who will himself visit Japan April 16-19, also appreciates the formation of the legislators' amity group and sent him to Japan despite a tight schedule.

Nakayama told Falin the Japanese people are awaiting Gorbachev, the first Kremlin leader to visit Japan, with "expectation and interest."

He reiterated the Japanese Government's stance that the upcoming visit will be a breakthough toward resolving the long-disputed territorial stalemate.

Falin was quoted as saying the visit is symbolic as it is the first ever by a Soviet or Russian leader to Japan, and that this fact "obliges both sides to seriously prepare for it."

"Japan and the Soviet Union are divided by both language and the sea," he said, "but now they will be able to build a bridge over the Sea of Japan and can communicate with the common language of mutual understanding."

"I hope the upcoming (Gorbachev) visit will be held under a lucky star," he added, using a Russian saying, according to the ministry official.

A preparatory Soviet mission is due in Japan next week to pave the way for the Gorbachev trip. Foreign Minister Aleksander Bessmertnykh will visit Japan April 29-31 to finalize the plans for the president's trip.

LDP's Ozawa To Visit Moscow, Washington

OW1603010291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], will visit Moscow beginning March 24 to seek a breakthrough in Japan-Soviet relations, LDP officials said Saturday.

Ozawa will also visit Washington late this month for talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, the officials said.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met with Ozawa on Friday night and approved Ozawa's planned trips to the Soviet Union and the United States, according to the officials.

Ozawa will be the first senior government party official to visit Moscow and Washington successively.

The LDP officials said the secretary general will meet with President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders in an effort to seek a breakthrough in Japan-Soviet relations, which have long been in stalemate over Japan's demand for return of northern islands off Hokkaido.

Ozawa's trip will come before Gorbachev's official visit to Japan on April 16. Gorbachev has since last spring repeatedly asked Ozawa to come to Moscow, according to the LDP officials.

They said Ozawa previously requested that the Soviets propose an over-all settlement to the territorial issue as a precondition to accepting an invitation to visit Moscow.

However, Ozawa made the decision to go to Moscow from a viewpoint that his trip may be worthwhile if the Soviet side is prepared to deal with the territorial issue with sincerity prior to Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Japan April 16-19, the officials said.

Ozawa plans to stay in Moscow three to four days beginning March 24, but he has not finalized his itinerary.

The LDP officials said that following his Moscow trip, Ozawa plans to visit Washington around March 28 in order to improve U.S.- Japan relations in the wake of criticism in the U.S. against Japan's stance during the Persian Gulf war, the party officials said.

Ozawa plans to brief [the] President and Baker on the situation in Japan and as well as the outcome of his visit to Moscow and seek their support for a betterment of Tokyo-Moscow ties, the officials said.

Ozawa Remarks on Visits

OW1603115891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said Saturday he will visit Moscow March 24-26 for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the long-running territorial dispute between the two countries.

Ozawa said he will then go to Washington to brief U.S. leaders on his meeting with Gorbachev.

He told reporters he has received an informal message from Gorbachev, expressing his desire to discuss the territorial issue.

Gorbachev's message reflected his desire to find a breakthrough in the territorial dispute to mark his first trip to Japan in the middle of April, sources close to Ozawa said.

It also raised the possibility of the two countries starting full-scale negotiations on the issue.

Two rounds of working-level negotiations so far have failed to make headway, with each side clinging to its stand.

The Soviet leader is scheduled to begin his Japan tour April 16.

There has been speculation Gorbachev may propose returning two of the four disputed islands to Japan in line with a 1956 joint declaration which normalized relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Japan demands the reversion of all islands, which it claims are historically part of Japan.

The Soviet Union seized the four islands, east of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, shortly after the end of World War II.

"I decided to accept the invitation (from Gorbachev) because it (the territorial dispute) is a major issue (between the two countries), and I will engage in a frank exchange of views with the president," Ozawa said.

Earlier Saturday, Ozawa and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama confirmed that the government and the LDP will coordinate policies toward Moscow, their aides said.

Kazuhiko Togo, head of the Foreign Ministry's Soviet affairs section, will accompany Ozawa to Moscow, they said.

Ozawa said he will proceed to Washington around March 27 for talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other officials.

His meeting with President George Bush is being arranged through diplomatic channels, his aides said.

Ozawa's trip to Washington is aimed at improving U.S.-Japanese relations in the wake of U.S. criticism of Japan's stance during the Persian Gulf war, they said.

SDP Works Out Self-Defense Forces Action Bill

OW1503150791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) on Friday worked out the outline of a bill that would allow retired Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations, party officials said.

The outline calls on Japan to contribute to operations such as ceasefire monitoring by providing telecommunications services and other logistical support, but would prohibit involvement in military operations.

In the wake of international criticism of Japan's response to the Persian Gulf war, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and Komeito are planning talks to decide on a Japanese contribution to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

One of the most controversial issues in the talks is likely to be whether SDF members or reservists should play any role in such operations.

The SDP, Japan's largest opposition party, would rule out involvement by active service members, and restrict Japan's role in U.N. operations to "non-military and civilian activities."

The party's bill calls for the creation of a Japanese "peace cooperation corps" of about 1,000 members, of whom less than 100 would be permanently retired SDF personnel. The other 900 members would include police officers, Maritime Safety Agency employees and firefighters.

The draft bill, while saying the peace corps should take part in election monitoring and rear support activities which are part of U.N. peacekeeping operations, says Japan must not be involved in U.N. peacekeeping forces sent to war-torn areas.

Japanese personnel would be prohibited from carrying firearms, except for "police activities," under the bill, which would require the government to consult with U.N. authorities on whether to arm police officers.

The SDP, formerly known as the Japan Socialist Party, said the party hopes to discuss the bill with Komeito after the local elections slated next month.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, meanwhile, told reporters that SDF personnel, even reservists, should be barred from U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Ishida, who is stumping for local candidates in Osaka, said civilians could do the job.

DSP Chairman Unveils Plan for Nonmilitary Force

OW1603131491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Sendai, March 16 KYODO—The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) chairman Saturday unveiled a plan to organize a non-military force, using some Japanese military reservists, to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

In unveiling the party's blueprint at a news conference in Sendai, DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said the DSP-proposed organization would be independent of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], Japan's military, but would include SDF reservists.

Ouchi was in Sendai on a campaign tour for April's nationwide local elections.

He said the corps would participate in U.N. monitoring activities of ceasefires and elections. It also would do logistic work for U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The membership, in addition to SDF reservists, would consist of civilians and administrative personnel, Ouchi said.

SDF reservists are former SDF personnel who have returned to civilian life, but who would return to military service if called up. They also receive military training twice a year. There are about 47,000 SDF reservists.

Ouchi said the proposed corps would have about 100 regular members, and 1,000 to 2,000 people would be registered as two-year members.

He also called for SDF involvement in training the corps and in transporting them abroad.

They could carry small weapons for self-protection, although they would be non-combatants, Ouchi said.

In his speech, Ouchi touched a plan to dispatch Japanese minesweepers to help remove the mines in the Persian Gulf, and said sending the vessels is possible under current law and that doing so had a peaceful purpose.

But he added that Japan should handle the matter carefully, stressing the need for actual requests for the ships from outside the country and domestic support for the plan.

Party Leaders Pledge Support in Tokyo Election

OW1503152091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and leaders of two opposition parties Friday promised their full support to Tokyo gubernatorial candidate Hisanori Isomura.

Kaifu, speaking to about 2,000 citizens at an election rally in Hachioji in Tokyo's west, said the cooperation between the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) in backing Isomura shows that the Diet backs his pledge to reduce Tokyo residents' taxes.

Kaifu, who is the LDP president, mentioned the support the two opposition parties gave the LDP in passing a Diet bill to give 9 billion dollars to defray the cost of the Persian Gulf war.

He then turned to DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi and Komeito Diet member Tadao Miki and told the audience their cooperation would carry over into Isomura's campaign.

Isomura promised the audience that if elected he would work to cut residents' taxes by 1 trillion yen within his first four-year term of office.

He went on to say the new Tokyo administrative complex in Shinjuku, which is Japan's tallest structure and was built during the administration of incumbent Governor Shunichi Suzuki, was a waste of tax money which would have been better spent on housing.

The 1,000-tsubo governor's office is three times the size of the Prime Minister's office, he said. A tsubo is 3.3 square meters. "I do not intend to use it for myself alone," Isomura said.

Isomura accused the Suzuki administration of conveying a false impression of economy to citizens touring the new offices by placing old chairs at strategic points along the sightseeing course.

He also struck out against the Tokyo bayside development project, proposed by Suzuki, saying Tokyo did not need another Manhattan.

In support of Isomura, Komeito's Miki said that Suzuki's proposal to stage an international exposition on the bayside development site showed he was out of touch with Tokyo's residents.

Tokyo Gubernatorial Candidates Hold Debate

OW1603122591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Hisanori Isomura, candidate for Tokyo governor in next month's local elections, met with pro wrestler-turned politician Antonio Inoki Saturday in what observers said was a farce.

The meeting, dubbed as an "open debate," had a friendly atmosphere in which Inoki, a former candidate for governor, wished Isomura good luck.

Isomura, a former news anchorman at the NHK Public Broadcasting Corporation, is running for Tokyo governor with the support of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and two opposition groups, the Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Inoki, a member of the House of Councillors, abruptly dropped his candidacy earlier this month, making the gubernatorial election essentially a three-way race among Isomura, incumbent Governor Shunichi Suzuki and Mitsunori Ohara, a scholar backed by the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party of Japan.

During Saturday's meeting, Isomura apologized to Inoki for calling his fight against former world boxing heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali in Tokyo about a decade ago a rip-off.

Inoki, who leads the small Sports Peace Party, said he might support Isomura in the election if Isomura will adopt his policies in administering the Tokyo metropolitan government.

Finance Minister Further Remarks on Yen

OW1803073091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday he is worried about the yen's recent weakness against the dollar and reiterated his determination to work for stable exchange rates in cooperation with other major industrial nations.

Responding to a question by an opposition lawmaker, Hashimoto told an upper house committee that he is worried by the yen-dollar rate and noted that the dollar's strength is not related to U.S. economic fundamentals.

"It's a mood of optimism over a quick recovery of the U.S. economy that has kept the dollar high so far," he said, adding that "we must cooperate with other countries to ensure stability in the foreign exchange markets."

Hashimoto did not elaborate. In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 137.65 yen, up 1.40 yen from Friday's close.

Y220 Billion Approved for USFJ Cost Sharing

OW1503231491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Today, the plenary session of the House of Representative approved a Japan-U.S. special agreement on the increase of Japan's cost sharing for U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ] by approximately Y [yen] 220 billion in the next five years. Under the special agreement, the Japanese Government will, on a phased basis, bear the basic salaries and allowances of Japanese employees working at U.S. military bases, and the utility charges of electricity, water, and gas used by the military bases for five years beginning 1991. As a result, the government will bear an additional approximately Y220 billion in the next five years.

At the plenary session of the House of Representatives held this afternoon, the special agreement was approved by a majority. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party voted for the special agreement concluded between Japan and the United States while the Social Democratic Party of Japan and the Japan Communist Party voted against the agreement.

The Komeito opposed the 1988 Japan-U.S. special agreement. This time, however, the opposition party supported the latest agreement, claiming that the agreement will contribute to the stabilized employment of Japanese employees.

The government estimates that the ratio of Japan's cost sharing for U.S. forces in Japan will increase from the present 40 percent to more than 50 percent in 1995.

Ministry Unveils Provisional Interim Budget

OW1503142791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The Finance Ministry unveiled Friday the broad framework of a provisional budget covering the first 12 days of fiscal 1991, starting April 1.

The interim measure, the fifth in as many years, enables the government to spend some 5.5 trillion yen to cover basic government operations, including some 3.3 trillion yen in tax grants to local governments and about 600 billion yen in personnel expenses.

The temporary budget was prepared in case the opposition- controlled House of Councillors of the Diet rejects the government's proposed 70.35 trillion yen fiscal 1991 budget, which the House of Representatives passed Thursday.

Under the Constitution, even if the upper house votes down the budget, it automatically passes 30 days after lower house approval.

* Series Explores Environmental Concerns

912A0134A Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 91 pp 56-59

[Article from series in TSUSAN JANARU by NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN editor, Kazuhisa Yamagiwa: "Reduction of CO_2 Is Duty of Industrially Developed Japan]

[Text] **Importance of This Worldwide Environmental Problem Has Risen**

Nowadays the environmental problems of the earth are being considered widely throughout the world. Among those problems, the global warming problem is considered particularly critical. Through the consumption of energy, that problem has an intimate relationship with our lives as human beings. Moreover, the present energy problem, differing from the past two oil shocks and from regional pollution problems, includes the fundamental problem of "life and energy."

In this series, we plan to take up topics such as energy saving and new energy sources which are expected to become important points in energy-related matters hereafter. In this first installment, we would like to outline the present state of energy-related matters in Japan.

Turning Point in our Richly-Blessed, Fossil Fuel-Based Lives

The environment of the earth is being viewed as a major problem throughout the world. Within that larger problem, attention is being focused on the global warming gas problem as one of the subjects which is proving to be difficult to solve. Humanity has been supporting its luxurious lifestyle on the burning of fossil fuels. However, it is thought that the fundamental evil causing global warming is carbon dioxide (CO_2), which is the inevitable output of burning fossil fuels. Therefore, CO_2 has been taken up as a major problem throughout the world. In October of 1990, the Japanese Government decided to stabilize the per capita CO_2 output for the year 2000 at the 1990 level. Further, a policy entitled "Action Plan for Prevention of Global Warming" has been formulated. This policy aims at an even more strict CO_2 emission standard by maintaining the 1990 level even after the year 2000 through speeding up technological development and the implementation of a new governmental policy. To prevent global warming, it is thought that an enormous burden equivalent to the sales tax will be necessary. Although the key to the selection is in the hands of the populace, it would seem that it is necessary for us as an advanced industrial country to take the lead in initiating action.

Action Plan for Prevention of Global Warming and Goal of Substitute Energy Supply

The action plan for prevention of global warming includes technological development for energy and resource conservation, conversion of the industrial structure, hastening the use of new energy forms which give off small amounts of carbon dioxide, promotion of reforestation and tree planting, the development of technology which will allow the effective use of CO_2, and the scientific elucidation of the warming mechanism. The period of the plan is from the present through 2010.

Further, the government decided the goal of its oil substitute energy supply for 2010 at the October, 1990, cabinet meeting. This goal conforms with the global warming prevention action plan, and in addition to increasing to 26.8 percent, or an expansion of 12 points from the actual usage in fiscal 1989, the level of dependence on nuclear energy and new non-fossil fuel energy sources, which do not emit CO_2, the government plans to reduce the consumption of oil by concentrating on the transportation arena, decrease the dependence on oil 12.6 points to the low 45.3 percent, and increase the relative percentage of non-fossil fuel energy sources.

The goal shows all supply amounts by energy source for the year 2010 converted to an amount of crude oil. The total amount of the supply is a 31.7 percent increase when compared to the actual 1989 record of 499 million kiloliters. This 657 million kiloliters is a 9 million-kiloliter reduction of that planned for in the long-term energy supply and demand forecast made by the comprehensive energy investigative committee, an advisory body of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, in June of the same year. The reduced amount is all oil. The Transportation Ministry is promoting a policy to change from truck transport to rail and sea and is developing a scenario in which oil consumption is restrained.

As a result, the 289 million kiloliters of oil supplied in 1989 will increase only slightly to 298 million kiloliters in 2010. This will be a decrease in dependence from 57.9 percent to 45.3 percent. The amount of energy supplied by sources other than oil have been held at the same levels as those in the long-term forecast. The plan calls for the dependence on atomic power generation, a representative non-fossil fuel energy source, to be 16.9 percent, or an 8-point increase. In 2010, the amount of nuclear generated power will be 474 billion kilowatt hours. During the next 20 years, this will mean that about 40 new 1 million-kilowatt power stations will have to be built.

Will Freezing CO_2 Emissions Lead to Minus Economic Growth?

Critics are saying that building 40 new nuclear power plants as the response to the 757 million-kiloliter forecast is unrealistic. To increase usable energy 31.7 percent while freezing CO_2 emissions will be an extremely difficult task. This has become the basis for the opinion that freezing of the amount of emission will influence economic growth negatively.

"I have a feeling that it is next to impossible to freeze the CO_2emission amount while at the same time maintaining the economic growth rate." (Professor Yoichi Kaya of the Engineering Department at Tokyo University). It is a fact that this opinion is widespread.

There is an optimistic theory, also. Professor Satoshi Hirata of the Tokyo University Innovative Science Technical Research Center has tentatively calculated that the amount of CO_2 emitted can be reduced by 20 percent through the introduction of cogeneration. "Freezing of CO_2 emissions will be possible simply by saving energy and recovering exhaust heat," insists Professor Hirata.

In actuality, while achieving economic growth, Japan has recorded almost no increase in energy consumption for the 15-year period after the 1973 oil shock. This was done through energy conservation.

Main Subjects Henceforth Are Energy Conservation, Exhaust Heat Recovery, and New Energy Sources

Well, then, in what way will it be possible to freeze CO_2 emissions? Methods for freezing CO_2 emissions can be classified into three large groups, energy conservation, exhaust heat recovery, and new energy sources. If the increased amount of energy garnered from these three CO_2 emission-free sources can be apportioned, all should be well.

The themes within the topic of energy conservation are energy conserving manufacturing facilities, energy saving electrical products, and improvement in automobile gas mileage. Professor Takao Kashiwagi of Tokyo Agricultural and Industrial University is an expert in energy conservation. He says, "We can supply one-third of the increased energy which will be needed by the year 2010 through energy conservation technology.

In the arena of exhaust heat recovery, the most effective is cogeneration. The 20 percent reduction in CO_2 which Professor Hirata has calculated represents half the increased energy amount.

What is left is new energy sources. Among new energy sources are solar cells, wind power generation, and geothermal power generation. The one which appears as if it will become a significant source is solar cells. A 30-square meter solar cell can produce 3 kilowatts. That is sufficient power for a normal household. "We can supply one-third of Japan's power demand simply by installing solar cells on the roofs of homes, buildings, and factories." So says Yukinori Kuwano, head of Sanyo Electric Machines Functional Material Research Laboratory. Since the power demand is equivalent to one-third the amount of all energy consumed, solar cells can supply about one-fifth of the increased energy amount.

Sweeping Reconsideration of Government Policy and Industrial System Necessary

When looked at in this way, calculations reveal that the increased amount of energy which will be necessary by 2010 can be supplied by energy conservation, exhaust heat recovery, and new energy sources. However, to accomplish that, a broad turnabout in government policy, a sweeping conversion of the production system, and cooperation from the industrial world will be necessary. For example, if new technology such as ceramics is brought into play in combined cycle power generation in which gas turbines and steam turbines are used, energy use efficiency will be greatly improved. Further, introduction of continuous flow iron manufacturing equipment in the steel industry makes it necessary to have an integrated process. Automobiles and household appliances also will have to provide energy conservation 20 percent higher than at present. To make this a concrete reality, the necessity of considering creating an energy consumption tax system or surcharge system which will provide funds which can be allocated for technological development or incentives will arise.

To introduce cogeneration in exhaust heat recovery, it will be necessary to build small power generating stations near those large cities which need a heat supply and lay a pipeline network for the supply of exhaust heat. In this case, if we do not adopt the method of having the power company buy the power which is generated, it will not be possible to achieve efficient energy use. Furthermore, it will also be necessary to implement a system in which those companies needing high temperature exhaust heat will be able to use the exhaust heat first and thereafter have it passed on in order to those companies which do not need such high temperature exhaust heat. Therefore, exhaust heat from an iron works would be passed on to an oil refinery and from there to a food processing company. This means that it will be necessary to design a whole region systematically, not just looking at one factor.

Furthermore, solar cells are at the present time higher priced than the power fees being charged by power companies. To make their use widespread will require government support. Also, technological development to increase the level of mass production technology and power generating efficiency is also important.

If we do not rethink from the basics such public corporations as electrical power, political policy, and cooperation of the industrial world, the CO_2 problem cannot be solved. Also the need to think about phasing in more nuclear power plants will also arise. The CO_2 problem is a problem with which the government must grapple in all earnestness. That is the duty of Japan as an industrially advanced country. What is more, we will be unable to garner the confidence of Third World countries if we do not solve the CO_2 problem.

Japan has a record which shows it steering successfully through two periods of upheaval—the Meiji Restoration and the rebuilding after the war. At the time of the oil shock also we were able to achieve energy conservation. The present global environmental problem is not simply an energy problem. This problem springs from the more basic fact that the earth is limited. From the viewpoint that the essence of this problem is different, it would not be an exaggeration to say that this is the third period of upheaval for Japan. What differs this time from the previous two times is that we are already leading prosperous lives and we have no inner desire to change things.

In terms of technology and industry, Japan is a leader among nations. From all countries of the world voices expressing their expectations of Japan are becoming louder, day by day. The global environmental problem is a theme which has the potential of questioning whether or not Japan is a country which can be relied upon.

Toshiba Ships TSOP 4-Megabit DRAM Samples

OW1803074891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Monday it has begun sample shipments of a series of 4-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips in thin-small outline package (TSOP) for use in integrated circuit (IC) cards and memory modules.

Officials said sample prices will be pegged at about 4,500 yen per chip. Mass production of the chips will start in May at Toshiba's Oita plant in Kyushu, they added.

The TSOP 4-megabit memories, which are thinner than the current small-outline J (SOJ) lead packages used in computers, are ideal for use in IC smart cards or extension memory cards for laptop and notebook personal computers, memory modules for workstations and hand-held calculators, the officials said.

The thinness advantage compared to the 3.75 millimeter thick SOJ- type versions makes it much easier to mount the chips on both sides of a printed circuit board to be housed in a narrow limited space, the officials said.

SOJ packages are currently the most popular memory devices used in computers and office automation equipment.

Toshiba researchers packed some 8.7 million elements such as transistors and capacitors onto the 1.2 millimeter thick chip, using 0.7 micron complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) technology.

The 32 TSOP versions have an access time ranging from 60-100 nanoseconds. A nanosecond is one-billionth of a second.

Fujitsu Appeals U.S. Tax Order on Chip Sales

OW1703085191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. is appealing an order by U.S. tax authorities that it pay 64.1 million dollars in a dispute over the transfer prices of semiconductor chips it sold through subsidiaries in the United States, the major Japanese electronics manufacturer said Sunday.

The Internal Revenue Service charged that Fujitsu set the transfer prices on chips sent to its U.S. subsidiaries, Fujitsu America Inc. and Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc., unreasonably high to reduce the subsidiaries' profits—and their taxes.

Fujitsu said it has filed an appeal in U.S. tax court because the IRS order, issued last November to the two subsidiaries, is tantamount to double taxation by the U.S. and Japanese Governments.

The IRS said Fujitsu America failed to declare income in eight business years from fiscal 1972 to 1980, excluding 1974, and Fujitsu Microelectronics in three years from fiscal 1980. Both firms are based in California.

"We are selling chips to our U.S. subsidiaries at proper prices," a Fujitsu official said.

Japan, U.S. Agree on Supercomputers Pact

OW1603073991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Japan and the United States agreed Saturday to extend and update a bilateral pact limiting sales of supercomputers and to expand the accord to cover other industrial countries as well, government sources said.

The current pact, designed to prevent supercomputers from being used to design nuclear weapons and for other military purposes, has largely blocked their export to countries that have not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Japan and the United States are the only countries now capable of making supercomputers. But Britain, Germany, and France—with the possible addition of the Netherlands and Italy—are reportedly on the verge of making their own supercomputers.

The sources said the latest accord reflects U.S. concern that supercomputers made by these countries could be exported to nations not covered by the nonproliferation treaty unless the Japan-U.S. pact is expanded to include the five Western nations.

Under the agreement, Japan and the United States will appeal to these countries to join the pact to curtail exports of supercomputers, the sources added.

Supercomputers are typically used for simulations in various fields and for tasks such as developing nuclear weapons and designing aircraft.

Supercomputers are currently subject to strict export regulations by the Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls, which bans export of high technology products to communist countries.

Japan and the United States, along with the five European nations, are members of the Paris-based Western export control watchdog.

Mitsubishi Trust, Regional Bank Sign Accord

OW1503220391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp. said Friday it has signed a wide-ranging agreement with Nanto Bank, a regional bank based in Nara, to cooperate in the trust business.

The agreement allows Mitsubishi to use the branch network run by Nanto and gives the regional bank Mitsubishi's know-how to meet diversifying needs from local customers, Mitsubishi said in a press release.

Under the pact, the two banks also join hands in offering a variety of trust products and developing new products, it said.

The linkup with Nanto is Mitsubishi's third agreement of its kind with a regional bank, following one signed last July with the Joyo Bank, based in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture, and another concluded in December with the Shizuoka-based Shizuoka Bank.

Banking analysts said similar deals between trust banks and regional banks are expected to increase because of financial reforms being initiated by the Finance Ministry, which will open trust banking business to financial institutions other than trust banks.

Nissho Iwai Chairman Named Doyukai Chairman

OW1603015891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 (KYODO)—Masaru Hayami, chairman of Nissho Iwai Corp. and vice chairman of the

Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizaidoyukai) will be promoted to be the chairman of the association at a general meeting of the business group on April 24.

This was tentatively decided at a senior Keizaidoyukai leaders' meeting held Friday, association officials said.

Hayami, who will turn 66 later this month, said at a press conference the same day that he would inherit the chairmanship, now filled by Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Takashi Ishihara, 79, with a spirit of volunteer service and devotion.

Commenting on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Tokyo, slated for April 16-19, Hayami said he expects the leaders of the two countries to go adequately into the thorny territorial dispute over the Soviet-held northern islands off Hokkaido for an improvement of the bilateral relationship.

As for Japan's economic assistance to and investment in the Soviet Union, Hayami expressed some concern over the country's political stability and the prospects of ongoing economic reform toward a market-oriented economy.

North Korea

Commentary on South Envoy's Remarks on UN Entry

SK1803041791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Open Maneuvers To Perpetuate Division"]

[Text] We are witnessing moves to fabricate two Koreas , which arouses our concern. According to a report, the so-called new puppet ambassador to the United Nations, speaking at a news conference on 12 March, raved that South Korea should enter the United Nations in any form within this year and that South Korea will submit an application for a separate UN entry in time.

Prior to this, the puppet foreign minister made outbursts that discussing the issue of UN entry at the North-South talks any further was unproductive and that separate North and South UN entry will not hamper national reunification, thereby openly revealing his intent to push ahead with the maneuvers for a separate UN entry.

While avoiding negotiations with the fellow countrymen, the puppets are engaged in the maneuvers of begging for support from overseas for their scheme of separate UN entry. This shows how serious the puppets' maneuvers to fabricate two Koreas through a separate UN entry have become. This is an unpardonable antinational and antireunification crime causing surging rage among the people who yearn for reunification.

As is well known, the issue of UN entry in our country, which is divided by foreign forces, is an issue of great importance for the nation. It is directly connected with the fatherland reunification, which is an issue of vital national interest. The UN entry, therefore, should be realized through an agreement of the entire nation. If the North and the South enter the United Nations separately or simultaneously, it will bring about a grave consequence of legitimizing and perpetuating the division which was initiated by foreign forces.

Therefore, we assert that the North and the South should enter the United Nations as one state after the reunification, and that if they enter before the unification, they should not enter separately with two seats but jointly with one seat. Also, at the North-South high-level talks, we have made every sincere effort for it, raising the UN entry issue as an agenda item of urgency, so as to solve it through negotiation.

Despite this, the puppets are pushing ahead with the criminal maneuvers for separate UN entry, rejecting our reunification-oriented UN entry proposal. This is nothing short of openly declaring that they seek division. To our nation, which has been suffering from the pain of the North-South division for nearly half a century, reunification is the supreme task that cannot be postponed any more.

All the fellow countrymen in the North and the South are now vigorously advancing in order to achieve reunification in the nineties. Our nation is consistently aspiring and is firmly determined not to prolong the division more than a half century. At a time when the yearning for reunification prevails all over the country, the puppets are scheming to legitimize and perpetuate the division of the country through separate UN entry. This is an intolerable challenge to the national yearning for reunification, and clearly shows once again that the puppets are the vicious splittists and an enemy to reunification who do not have the slightest regard for the national misfortune and suffering or the reunification of the country.

The puppets are raving that neither simultaneous nor separate UN entry will hamper reunification and that they hope someone's position will change. This is a shameless tactic to hide their splittist maneuvers and mislead public opinion. No matter what sopohism they may employ, the puppets cannot justify their treacherous and criminal separate UN entry maneuvers. The South Korean puppets' separate UN entry maneuvers are destined to aggravate North-South relations by legitimizing the division internationally, to bring the danger of a new war by deepening North-South confrontation, and to lay new obstacles and difficulties in the way of fatherland reunification.

The No Tae-u ring should be held responsible before the entire nation for the grave consequences that will result from the separate UN entry maneuvers. All the Korean nation in the North, South, and overseas will crush the two Koreas plot of the treacherous No Tae-u ring, which is as vicious as the five Ulsa bandits who sold out the country, and realize without fail the historical cause of fatherland reunification.

Foreign Papers Cited on UN Entry Issue

*SK1803111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 18 Mar 91*

["Romanian and Egyptian Papers Flail South Korean Authorities' Scheme for 'Unilateral U.N. Membership'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Romanian and Egyptian papers condemned the South Korean authorities' scheme for "unilateral U.N. membership."

The Romanian paper ADEVARUL warned that if South Korea's "unilateral entry into the United Nations" is permitted, the relations between the North and the South will be extremely deteriorated and tension screwed up on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that Korea's U.N. membership problem should be solved in favor of reunification on the basis of a North-South agreement, the paper stressed that the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for sharing one seat at the United Nations reflects the unshakable will of the Korean people to reunify the country at an early date.

The Egyptian paper AL TAUWON, exposing the purpose of the South Korean authorities' intention to "unilaterally join the United Nations", betraying the nation's will, said this shows that they do not want national reunification but seek a permanent division of the country.

Reportage, Commentary on Team Spirit Continues

'Test Nuclear War' Alleged

*SK1303120891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "'Team Spirit' and Nuclear War Commanding System."

The paper says: The "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers staged by the U.S. imperialists against the northern half of Korea are a test nuclear war in every respect.

Suffice it to review the commanding system of the maneuvers.

The "Team Spirit" involves many nuclear war commanding and early warning planes.

From 1987, the U.S. imperialists included in this war game "E-4B" aboard which the U.S. President and his assistants are to command a nuclear war in case the nuclear war headquarters is destroyed.

The "E-3A" AWACS plane commanding the U.S. troops and the South Korean puppet army, "EC-135" called "commanding office in the sky," "OA-10" control planes and strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes are also involved.

Electronic jamming planes are mobilized in the war game to paralyze our commanding system. The U.S. imperialists intend to make a forestalling nuclear strike at the northern half of Korea by mobilizing all means of commanding nuclear war in the "Team Spirit."

They have mobilized in this annual war game since 1983 the U.S. Strategic Command for nuclear war.

The U.S. Strategic Command puts 60 percent of the U.S. Air Force on "quick reaction alert" and keeps 100 percent of units in "war preparedness" to fire nuclear weapons within one minute after an order comes.

The U.S. imperialists invest the local U.S. commander with the power to start a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

Under this situation, the "Team Spirit" held in South Korea and its vicinity may turn into a nuclear war any moment. In this case all nuclear forces under the U.S. Strategic Command may be hurled into the Korean peninsula. This would mean a worldwide thermonuclear war.

The U.S. imperialists have completed the systems of operation, command, communications and information needed for nuclear war with the Korean peninsula as the theatre. The thing left to be done is to press the button.

Facts clearly show the adventurous and offensive nature of the "Team Spirit" as a test nuclear war.

U.S. Pacific AF Commander's Trip

*SK1603045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0437 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The commander of the U.S. Pacific Airforce [AF] flew to South Korea to be closeted on March 14 with the chief of the general staff of the puppet airforce over the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula, according to a radio report from Seoul.

His tour and closed-door talk at a time when the criminal "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers entered a full fledged stage are extremely dangerous moves to command the joint exercises on the spot and, furthermore, give finishing touches to the plan for driving the U.S. aggression forces and the South Korean puppet army into an attack on the North and carry it into practice.

The Korean people are watching the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities with a high vigilance.

'Hostile Act' on High Seas Noted

*SK1603005191 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 2358 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] The South Korean puppets committed an act of hostility against one of our commercial ships on the high seas. The South Korean puppets committed a grave hostile act of openly threatening our peaceful commercial ship which was sailing on the high seas yesterday.

Around 0925 yesterday, the South Korean puppets dispatched a fighter plane in the sky around the Kwanmobong, a commercial ship of ours which was sailing toward the high seas around the southern tip of Cheju Island. After having it fly at an extremely low altitude six times around the commercial ship, the South Korean puppets dispatched another fighter plane around 1035 and had it make circuitous extremely low altitude flights eight times around our commercial ship, threatening the security of the crew of our ship. Around 1222, the South Korean puppets dispatched a warship of the puppet army and had it circle around our commercial ship repeatedly, committing a provocative act of gravely threatening the security of the crew of our ship again.

This is a wanton violation of the international law, and, moreover, it is an intentional act of hostility of the South Korean puppets against us which was committed at the same time as the provocative Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise is being conducted full-fledged.

River-Crossing Exercise Reported

SK1603044391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities on March 14 staged a large-scale river-crossing operation in the area of the South Han River, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The huge armed forces of infantry, artillery, tank and air units including the U.S. Second Infantry Division and the so-called "Igija" unit of the South Korean puppet army which were mobilized in this war game crossed the river firing volleys of shells and bullets.

The radio said that the "Team Spirit 91" field manoeuvres culminated in this operation, adding that it resembled a real war.

This shows that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are leading the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises aimed at northward invasion nearer to the brink of war despite our repeated warnings.

Daily on 'River-Crossing'

SK1703101091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 17 Mar 91

["Frequent Plays With Fire Lead to Conflagration"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the "large-scale river-crossing operation" staged by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the South Korean authorities in the South Han River as the "climax" of the field manoeuvers under the "Team Spirit 91" program.

Mobilized in this operation held on March 14 were the U.S. Second Infantry Division in South Korea and the "Igija" units of the puppet ground force and other huge armed forces and equipment.

The news analyst says:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities advertized that the river-crossing operation demonstrated their "coordinated operation capabilities" and "proved the strong combat power of the ground force", adding that it was as fierce as a real war. This eloquently shows how frantically they are kicking up war racket against the North.

They describe the "Team Spirit 91" as a "defensive exercise" to "deter the provocation" of somebody. But, this is a lie. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities answered our peace overtures with the war game. It is they who try to ignite a war of aggression on the Korean peninsula.

They attach great importance to such operations in the "Team Spirit" maneuvers, taking into account the topographic conditions of the northern half of Korea with long coastal lines and many rivers and streams.

This means they also clearly know that the river-crossing operation is for attack on the North.

The frantic "Team Spirit" war game in South Korea coincides with consecutive grave military provocations in the demilitarized zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

This shows that the sparks of the war game are flying over to our side in actuality.

CPRF Demands Halt of Team Spirit

SK1603044791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities must immediately stop the reckless "Team Spirit 91" war game, demands the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in its Information No. 584 released on March 15.

The information warns that if the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities defiantly ignite a war of aggression in Korea, they will face a thousand-fold retaliation.

Recalling that they staged a large-scale landing exercise near Pohang which is similar to the coastal area of the northern half of Korea on March 12, the day when the "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres entered the full-dress field operation stage, the information continued:

This dangerous war gamble in which huge aggression forces enough to carry out a whole war were hurled is an unpardonable criminal act aimed at rounding off the plan for a nuclear war against the northern half of Korea.

It is ridiculous of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to string out such clumsy excuses as "curtailment" of the "scale" and "period", describing the "Team Spirit 91" as "defensive exercises".

This is nothing but a sophism to conceal the offensive and serious nature of this reckless war game and their attempts to ignite a war against the North.

Our people are following with heightened vigilance the reckless war racket of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges which may go over to a real war against the northern half of Korea any moment.

'Analyst' Cautions Participants

SK1603104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 16 Mar 91

["Team Spirit" Is Test Nuclear War for Preemptive Attack on DPRK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities must act with discretion, clearly mindful that if they dare ignite a war, challenging our patient magnanimity, they would suffer a heavier defeat than in the last Korean war, warned military analyst Chang Song-ik in an article contributed to NODONG SINMUN today under the title "'Team Spirit' Is Test Nuclear War for Preemptive Attack on DPRK."

He said:

The "Team Spirit" is a dangerous preliminary war and test nuclear war for a surprise preemptive attack because it is a war game designed for a surprise start of a war through a crafty mobilization, massing and deployment of the armed forces.

Now that the military science and technology have highly developed, it is impossible to deploy large armed forces in the operational zone by stealth, unnoticed by the adversary. In local wars after the World War II, armed forces were deployed in the operational zones this or that way before starting the war by surprise. One of the ways was deployment under the pretext of military maneuvers.

Through the annual "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers since 1976, the U.S. imperialists have finished the preparations for quickly hurling huge U.S. troops and up-to-date military equipment into the Korean peninsula from the mainland and the Pacific.

No one can vouch that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities would not unleash a war against the North under some pretext while staging the "Team Spirit 91" with huge aggression forces massed in the areas near the Military Demarcation Line.

The "Team Spirit" is a preliminary war and test nuclear war for a preemptive attack on our Republic also because, in terms of the mode of war, it is a war game mainly designed to destroy the military potentials of the northern half of Korea and wage battles on the sea and the ground with the mobilization of numerous modern means of strike including nuclear weapons and missiles.

The U.S. imperialists stage the war game with the aim of making an indiscriminate strike to destroy not only the military targets but also production potentials of the adversary and paralyze his transport and commanding systems with the mobilization of B-52 strategic bombers and other planes and Lance missiles and other nuclear strike means and means of mobility.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities also stage river-crossing operations and landing operations from the sea, taking into account the topographic features of the northern half of Korea.

This notwithstanding, they advertise "scaling down" and "short period" of the "Team Spirit 91" and describe them as expression of "good will" for detente on the Korean peninsula.

It must not be overlooked that some people parrot the words of the warmaniacs, turning a blind eye to the provocative nature and danger of this war game.

The advertisement of "scaling down" and "short period" cannot conceal the aggressive nature of the war game.

When a robber breaks into a house, he cannot be an honest man, but remains a robber, whether he uses a sword or a dagger, whether he loots the house for an hour or two hours.

We can never lose sight of the ill-boding moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets to use for a sinister purpose the collapse of the balance of forces in the international relations and the imbalance of armed forces recently caused by our unilateral reduction of the armed forces by 100,000 men.

If the U.S. imperialists unleash a war of aggression, taking our patience for weakness, they will get nothing but deaths and corpses.

U.S. Said Stockpiling Weapons

SK1703094491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today exposes that the U.S. imperialists have shipped for a stockpile a huge amount of military supplies into South Korea under the pretext of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

The military supplies stored up in South Korea by the U.S. imperialists under the pretext of the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres are enough to wage a war of aggression several times, the paper in a by-lined article says, and goes on:

The U.S. imperialists have planned to store up military supplies worth two billion dollars in South Korea to extend the capacity of continuing war in South Korea more than 60 days and, according to it, are now shipping into South Korea a large number of military vehicles loaded with bombs, shells and ammunition through the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises every year.

Military supplies and war materiel brought by the U.S. imperialists each time they staged the "Team Spirit" war game approximate to one million tons. They used only 30 percent of them and left the rest in South Korea.

Diverse are the military supplies they have stored up in South Korea. The military supplies include "F-16," "F-4" and other type nuclear-capable planes and "Lance" missile, 155 mm howitzers, 8 inch howitzers and other nuclear striking means. They replaced "F-16A" fighter bombers deployed in South Korea with new-type "F-16C" and "F-16D" during the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in recent years. They stockpiled even a large amount of chemical weapons in South Korea allegedly to be "ready for chemical warfare." Up-to-date military equipment introduced into the U.S. Army units in South Korea in recent years are of more than 180 kinds.

Their method of storing up military supplies is notable.

They are amassing most of the military supplies brought during the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in the area along the Military Demarcation Line.

They are deploying mainly tactical nuclear weapons rather than conventional weapons.

During the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises each year the U.S. Second Infantry Division is provided with more than 250 wagon loads of military supplies, almost all of which are nuclear equipment. The division has some 100 pieces of nuclear weapons and "emergency equipment" to receive an order of nuclear fire.

A massive stockpiling of military supplies is needed only for aggression and war. The U.S. imperialists have set up the U.S. Army transport command for a prompt transport of military supplies in case of "emergency" on the Korean peninsula, deployed a "fleet of quick reaction warships" in coastal waters of Japan and established the system of mobilizing all military and civilian planes and cargo ships of South Korea according to the order of the U.S. Army transport command in case of "emergency".

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists are working hard to turn South Korea into a nuclear attack base full of nuclear bombs, nuclear warheads and nuclear transport means.

The U.S. imperialists must immediately stop the adventurous "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and take all their troops, nuclear weapons and all other military supplies out of South Korea.

More on 'Test Nuclear' Attack

SK1803063391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0511 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers as a combined war game for a regional war and a test nuclear war and preliminary war aimed at making a surprise preemptive attack on and overpowering the DPRK either in view of the armed forces and equipment involved in the game or in view of its background and nature.

The paper says in a signed article:

The U.S. imperialists reveal their invariable aggressive nature by recklessly staging the "Team Spirit" maneuvers to unleash a new war against the DPRK.

Aggression on other countries is an invariable nature and mode of existence of imperialism.

The U.S. imperialists' Korea policy is aimed at hindering the reunification of Korea, keeping hold on South Korea as a foothold of anti-communism and a forward nuclear base for an indefinite period, unleashing another war against the DPRK with South Korea as the springboard and realising their domination all over Korea. Therefore, they maintain their troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea, consolidate the colonial fascist rule and step up preparations for war against the North through frequent military maneuvers including the "Team Spirit."

The U.S. imperialists are staging various military exercises in different parts of the world and "Team Spirit" is the largest of them in scale.

The "Team Spirit" graphically shows the aggressive nature of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. imperialists, aggressive and predatory by nature, are only interested in keying up tensions and lighting the train of war on the Korean peninsula. That is why they are deadly opposed to the removal of military confrontation and the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and to the withdrawal of their forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea. Hence, they are pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war, while rejecting all our reasonable peace proposals to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, discontinue large-scale military exercises and slash the armed forces on a phased basis.

The U.S. imperialists are the very ones who render the situation strained and increase the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and the war-thirsty elements who are attempting to ignite a war against the North and inflict a scourge and calamities on our nation again.

Our people are following with heightened vigilance their reckless war provocation moves.

If they unleash a war of aggression despite our people's repeated warnings, they would have to pay dearly for it and face a stern judgement.

South Accused of 'Bowing' to U.S. in Talks

SK1303152191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1458 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities reportedly decided to totally open the international advanced technology communications network service market from July this year, bowing to the U.S. imperialists' pressure at the recent 6th South Korea-U.S. communications talks.

This means leaving communications to the United States and other imperialist countries as a tool of colonial domination and plunder.

The opening of communications network will enable the multinational businesses which are extending communications networks worldwide in the service domain to swarm into South Korea and provide various kinds of high-tech services by use of information communications. Then the service market cannot but be reduced to a possession of foreign businesses with accelerated pace.

And the negligible information industry of South Korea will sag further still in the investment and technical aspects and the random infiltration of foreign businesses will cause a more serious manpower shortage in this domain which has weak competitiveness. This will inevitably precipitate the dependence of information communications on other countries.

The opening of advanced technology communications market will result in nibbling at the economic markets and, at the same time, increasing the dependence of information and stocks as well as cultural dependence.

This notwithstanding, the No Tae-u ruling group did not hesitate to open the communications market, yielding to the U.S. imperialists' pressure, for the sake of its long-term office.

South Government's Planned Credit Reform Viewed

SK1103152891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1503 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group recently put forward "a reform formula of credit management" allegedly "to strengthen international competitive power".

This is another criminal move of the ruling group to get a fabulous amount of "political fund" from the comprador groups, its ally, in reward for unrestricted bank loans to them with the approach of local autonomy elections.

The No Tae-u ruling group decided to abolish the "credit control" which has formally been applied to big businesses under public pressure and criticism and withdraw not only loan limit but also the control on business expansion and on acquisition of real estate.

In other words, this "formula" is little short of an open declaration of the No group that it would leave the bank loans wholly to the comprador groups so as to expand their business and allow their speculation in land and other real estate.

As of the end of September 1990, a total bank loans issued to thirty big comprador groups came somewhere around 66, 968.6 billion won, or 30 percent of the bank loans. In reward for this, the No ruling group got a large amount of funds from the comprador businesses.

The No ruling group's decision is intended to easily get funds for the forthcoming local elections, "National Assembly elections" and "presidential elections" by leaving South Korean banks to them as their individual "safes".

Heightened Police Alert in South Noted

SK1703104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0808 GMT 17 Mar 91

["South Korean Authorities' Repressive Order" — KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The puppet Seoul metropolitan police bureau on March 14 ordered the front-line police stations to further intensify the guard, alleging that the students' struggle may flare up with the "basic assembly elections" in the offing, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The authorities also issued an order to "strengthen guard on off days and at dawns and nights to cope with the possible surprise attack by activist students on the police stations."

The South Korean people and students protested every day against the authorities who are bent on the suppression of the people, while working hard to use the "local assembly elections" in building a foothold for their long-term office.

Upset by this, the authorities issue one repressive order after another for fear that the anti-"government" struggle should attain an ever greater dimension.

Students Hold 'Antigovernment' Rallies in Seoul

SK1603132191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—A total of 10,000 students held rallies Friday at some 30 universities in South Korea for mass protests against the Suso housing scandal and called for the overthrow of the present "government" engaged in illicit fortune piling, a foreign news report from Seoul said.

Strong anti-"government" protests were held at seven universities in Seoul.

Hundreds of students of Yonsei University took to the streets, accusing No Tae-u of personal involvement in the housing scandal. They encountered huge clouds of tear gas fired by police from anti-riot vans as they emerged. But, they hurled stones and firebombs at police.

Another foreign news report said more than 1,500 students in Seoul staged protests Friday against the "Team Spirit '91" joint military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group.

About 600 students of Korea University held an anti-"government" rally on the campus and tried to take to the street. They hurled rocks at tear-gas firing riot police. The students burned an American flag to demonstrate their opposition to the criminal war game.

There were protests on several other campuses and larger protests are planned, news reports said.

Further on Demonstrations

SK1703101491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0816 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—More than 10,000 students and dissident figures in Seoul held a massive anti-"government" struggle Saturday, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The protestors staged a demonstration, shouting "Down with No Tae-u".

Flurried at their struggle, the authorities dispatched over 80 riot police companies to disperse the demonstration, firing teargas bombs.

The students threw stones and molotov cocktails at the riot police.

The fascist junta dispatched police reinforcements to the scene, but the protesters stubbornly fought, not yielding to the suppression.

An estimated 50 dissident figures including Mun Ik-hwan and Paek Ki-wan held a rally at the Christian Hall, when they failed to hold the people's rally to denounce the Suso scandal at Pagoda Park in Seoul due to the vicious blockade by the authorities.

Similar rallies were reported from Pusan, Kwangju and other local cities that day.

Activities Held To 'Rig' Elections in South

SK1603045991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today comment on the arbitrariness and intrigues of the "Security Planning Board" and the "Secret Affairs Command" (formerly the security command of the puppet army) involving themselves in "local elections" expected soon in South Korea.

A news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

Agents of the "Security Planning Board" and the "Secret Affairs Command" are collecting data related to the elections such as "the career and political inclination of candidates and the list of campaigners" recorded in government offices after being collected through police intelligence networks.

This shows that the South Korean authorities are conducting reckless activities to rig the "elections" in an atmosphere of political terror and blackmail, swindle and intrigue. This also brings into bold relief again the brigandish nature of the No Tae-u ruling group obssessed with greed for long-term office and the ugly colour of the political gangsters accustomed to violence and fraudulence.

It was not out of the intention to ensure democracy that No Tae-u announced "local elections."

He could not help it in face of the strong demand of the South Korean people and opposition parties, and he pursues in this a crafty and sinister scheme to lull the anti-No Tae-u, anti-dictatorship struggle of the people, bridge over the current ruling crisis and lay a foundation for long-term office through the "elections."

The "elections" to be held by violence and frauds with the voters and candidates threatened and flouted are not elections but robbery of "power."

The reactionary offensive of the South Korean authorities will result in laying bare their intention to gratify their wild desire for long-term office through bayonet-backed elections and evoking greater hatred and resentment from the people.

The signed commentary of MINJU CHOSON demands that the No Tae-u group discard its despicable ambition for long-term office and step down as demanded by the people.

Reunification Group Urges Anti-No Struggle

SK1603110491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 16 Mar 91

["Anti-No Tae-u, Anti-"DLP" Struggle Urged"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland sent an appeal to all the political parties, groupings and people of various strata of South Korea today concerning the perfidious acts of the No Tae-u ruling group in announcing that the "local assembly elections" in small districts will be held earlier than scheduled, separately from large districts.

Recalling that the No group has created a political situation for "elections" prematurely in a bid to lull the anti-No Tae-u, anti-"DLP" (Democratic Liberal Party) fighting spirit rapidly growing among the South Korean people after the Suso housing scandal, the largest ever known, was exposed, and divert elsewhere the attention of the popular masses, the appeal says:

The No group is now claiming that the "elections" will be "democratic, fair elections." But it is an empty talk.

The appeal continues:

The "elections" are expected to take place with all the candidacy monopolized through the general mobilization of administrative power and with the opposition parties and dissident democratic forces denied the slightest chance for the "election" campaign. How can such elections be democratic and fair?

The No Tae-u group is trying to cement the foothold of its fascist rule under the cloak of "democracy" and stage violent elections by dint of government power and commit election rigging by dint of money under the cloak of "fair elections."

Under such circumstances, the "local assembly elections" cannot but be an acute political confrontation between democracy and fascism.

Urging that the No group's criminal scheme to use the "local assembly elections" for its fascist dictatorship and long-term office must never be allowed, the appeal stresses:

Genuine democracy cannot be expected in South Korea under the present No "regime."

All the levers of the "election" struggle must be utilized for the anti-No, anti-"DLP" struggle and the struggle in the elections be developed into a struggle to replace the present military fascist regime with an independent democratic regime.

If democracy is to be achieved and a genuinely fair policy is to be enforced for the people in South Korea, a vigorous struggle for a probe into the truth behind the Suso scandal must be waged simultaneously with the struggle surrounding the "local assembly elections".

All parties, all groupings and people of all walks of life in South Korea should wage the "election"-related struggle as well as the struggle for a probe into the Suso scandal under the slogans of "resignation of No Tae-u" and "replacement of the present government with an independent democratic one".

Unity is the guarantee of victory in all the struggle.

There is no reason or ground that all the people cannot fight in unity, if they oppose fascism and desire democracy, irrespective of isms and assertions, party groupings and lining, affiliation and region.

The South Korean opposition parties, dissident organisations and people of various strata must get united as one, bringing together their will and strength, looking forward to the future and hold a joint anti-No, anti-"DLP" struggle aimed at democratisation.

The United States is the chief culprit who manipulates behind the scene the present "regime" in the efforts to turn local autonomy into the foundation of the fascist dictatorship in South Korea and it is the accomplice who is fostering and defending the corruption, injustices and irregularities of the present "government".

All parties, all groupings and people of all social standings of South Korea should fight on to force the U.S. forces to withdraw from South Korea and put an end to the colonial rule under the banner of independence against the U.S..

South's Pomminnyon Head Cited on Reunification

SK1603153991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 16 Mar 91

["Birth of 'Pomminnyon' Is National Task, Says Chairman of Preparatory Committee for South Side's Headquarters of 'Pomminnyon'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the preparatory committee for the South side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification ("Pomminnyon"), in a letter to Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of "Pomminnyon" on February 23 said that birth of "Pomminnyon" is a national task which should be carried out.

In the letter he expressed sympathy with an article sent by Yun I-sang to overseas Koreans on January 20 and said that aware of the fact that the nation is one, though it still remains divided geographically, he has come to realize that the ideological and institutional differences are not so big as to be insurmountable.

Pointing out that the fellow countrymen have come to have the confidence that they can achieve reunification, he said: this means the people's awareness that the driving force of reunification is not the government but people. The awareness also represents national mission that the only driving force of reunification is the people who are ready to pass the door of reunification when quarters with vested rights hesitate to step over the door of reunification or turn back.

It is our conviction that the government and people should be in the relationship of mutual replenishment and perfection as far as the question of reunification is concerned, as is the case with other matters. What is important is a great principle of democracy that the government should follow the will of people, the masters of the country.

Mun Ik-hwan in the letter stressed:

"Pomminnyon" which will be formed as a body of the reunification movement must not be inclined to one side nor be militant because Pomminnyon is compelled to work with the two governments in the North and the South. In this respect the stance of movement coincides with ours.

We fully agree with Chairman Yun's understanding of the work of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon. The great unity of overseas Koreans, this will be an earnest wish of the nation and a prelude to national reunification.

Kang Sok-chu Views North-South Cooperation

SK1503125291 Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean No. 12 Dec 90 pp 81-85

[Article by Kang Sok-chu: "North and South Must Cooperate With One Another in the International Arena To Defend the Common Interests of the Nation"]

[Text] Today, with unanimous desire to unfailingly achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification during the 90's, all Korean compatriots in the North, South, and abroad are vigorously turning out for the pannational struggle for reunification.

At a time when our people's spirit of reunification is higher than ever, for the first time since the nation was divided, the North and South twice held high-level talks. At the same time, the pannational meeting, the pannational music concert festival for reunification, and the reunification soccer games also were successfully held.

These successes won in the first-year struggle of the 90's for the reunification are an even more crystal-clear and more unmistakable proof of our people's unanimous will for reunification. They are showing a bright prospect for the fatherland's reunification to all Korean people who have suffered the tragedy of national division for almost half a century, and are actively encouraging them to join the grand march of reunification. The successes which our people have won in the struggle of reunification have created great repercussions among the peoples of many foreign countries and have earned their warm support and acclaim.

One of the important issues to achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification as soon as possible in compliance with our people's ever-growing desire for reunification and with the atmosphere of worldwide support and acclaim, is North-South cooperation in the international arena to defend the common interests of the nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In the international arena, the North and South must avoid confrontation and competition which damage the nation's dignity, and which allow foreign forces to profit. They must team up with each other to defend common national interests, and bring honor to the nation. (Booklet "Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country Into Full Play," pp 21-22)

The reunification of the fatherland is the most urgent national task facing the Korean people today and is a historical cause which our nation must achieve with responsibility. To achieve the reunification of the fatherland—the most cherished desire of the nation—as soon as possible, all Korean people in the North, South, and abroad, as the main force to achieve the reunification, must actively carry out the pannational struggle for the reunification of the fatherland by disregarding differences in ideologies, concepts, and systems, and by uniting as one under the banner of reunification.

At the same time, by cooperating with one another in the international arena, the North and South must create favorable international conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

At a time when the territories and people of the nation have been divided, the only factors which will help the North and South cooperate in the international arena are the common interests of the nation. The Korean nation from ancient times always has been homogeneous. It is a single nation which will have to live together forever. Defending the common interests of the nation is indeed a common principle which the North and South must maintain in their foreign relations.

When the North and South cooperate with one another in the international arena to defend the common interests of the nation, above all, the tragedy of the national division, which has been imposed as a result of international relations, can be brought to an end, and the reunification of the fatherland can be accelerated.

The Korean question, from a historical point of view, is closely linked with international relationships. The division of our country into the North and South was not according to our nation's will or desire. It was a product of international relationships. The nation has not been reunified yet, though 45 years have passed since the beginning of the division. This is also due to the continuation of foreign interference and hampering maneuvers. If not for foreign interference and hampering maneuvers, there should have been no reason to talk about the Korean question from the beginning, and there should have been no reason that the division should have continued until now.

The main force which will achieve the reunification of the fatherland is our people. Our people have the most crucial interest in the reunification of the fatherland. At the same time, our people have responsibility for the reunification of the fatherland, and those who will live in the reunified fatherland as masters are also our people.

Accordingly, along with the concerned countries' stand and attitude toward the Korean question, how the North and South develop their foreign relations is of fundamental significance in settling the question of the reunification of the fatherland.

Over the past period, because of the South Korean authorities' wrong stand, the North and South have been unable to correctly develop their foreign relations in such a way as to prevent the perpetuation of the division, and create favorable international conditions for the reunification of the fatherland. As a result, an even greater disaster was imposed on our people who were already suffering the agony of the division, and the unified development of the country and nation has been considerably barred.

Due to the division of our nation, only our people suffer misfortunes and losses, and only foreign forces enjoy profit. The historic lesson of the past, and the reality of today, vividly show that the division of a nation and its internal confrontation only allow foreign forces to interfere and to profit.

Today when the foreign forces' interference and hampering maneuvers are becoming even more blatant toward the question of our country's reunification, a grave consequence of our nation's permanent division can be certainly brought about, if the North and South continue to confront and compete with one another in the international arena.

To prevent the perpetuation of the nation's division and to achieve the peaceful reunification of the fatherland, the North and South must cooperate with one another in the international arena by placing the common interests of the nation on the top of the list. If our people don't do it, no one will defend the interests of our nation and will bring reunification to our country.

If the North and South fail to cooperate with one another in the international arena, if they continue to insist on one's own assertions, and if they continue to seek only their own interests, the image of our nation as a homogeneous one will diminish in the international arena and, moreover, the danger of our nation's permanent division will be inevitably created. Then, our people, who are of the same blood, who use the same language, and who live in the same land, will suffer the permanent division of the nation.

Only when the North and South place the common interests of the nation on the top of the list for the cause of reunification, and when they cooperate and keep step with one another to defend the common interests of the nation, will all world countries and peoples realize even more clearly that the Korean nation is a homogeneous one which cannot be divided, and that Korea must be reunified into a single unified state, and will no one recklessly attempt to infringe upon the interests of our nation.

The North-South cooperation in the international arena is the only rational way to prevent the perpetuation of the division, and to accelerate the reunification of the fatherland. Only through the North-South cooperation in the international arena can favorable international conditions to end the division of the nation, which is the product of international relations, be created, and can the cause of the reunification of the fatherland be achieved soon.

At the same time, if the North and South cooperate with one another in the international arena to defend the common interests of the nation, the dignity and honor of the nation can also be defended and displayed.

For all nations, national dignity and honor are as precious as life. If a nation is deprived of its dignity and honor, under no circumstances, can it be self-confident and sustain itself. When the people of a nation unite and cooperate with one another, only then can their dignity and honor be defended and displayed. But, if they are divided and they confront and compete with one another, their dignity and honor can be impaired. From ancient times, our Korean people have always been a homogeneous people who have lived harmoniously and happily generation after generation, inheriting the same blood. During the long period of 5,000 years, our people, always united, have created a long history and shining culture, and have highly displayed the wisdom and gallantry of the nation by defending the independence of the nation by repelling foreign forces' invasion.

The dignity of our nation relentlessly was trampled by the Japanese imperialists' 36-year colonial rule, and is still being obviously encroached upon, because of the division of the country and people, which has been imposed nearly for half a century by foreign forces. In the northern half of the Republic, the people, under the banner of the chuche idea, have established the most superior socialist power which is independent, self-reliant, and able to defend itself, and are highly displaying the dignity and honor of the nation. However, in the southern half, because of the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and the authorities' nation-selling acts, the dignity of the nation is being totally trampled. Under these circumstances, if the North and South continue confrontation and competition in the international arena, an even greater damage will be done to the dignity and honor of our nation as a whole.

Not damaging the dignity and honor of the Korean nation through confrontation and competition, but defending and displaying its dignity and honor through unity and cooperation, are our people's unanimous desire and unwavering will.

Today, the struggle to defend the dignity and honor of the nation is being remarkably intensified among all compatriots of the North, South, and abroad. The successes which have been won in the struggle for the reunification of the fatherland after the beginning of this year, are also closely linked with the task of defending the dignity and honor of the nation.

Today, spirit is higher than ever to defend the dignity and honor of the nation. In parallel with this, the North and South must cooperate with one another in the international arena as well as to defend the common interests of the nation.

If the North and South place the common interests of the nation on the top of the list in the international arena, and if they cooperate and keep step with one another, they can display the honor of the Korean nation as a homogeneous nation, and can firmly defend the dignity of the Korean nation, even though they are artificially and temporarily divided.

The experience at the 11th Asian Games clearly showed that the dignity and honor of the Korean nation can be defended and displayed, if the North and South place the common interests of the nation on the top of the list in the international arena, and if they cooperate and keep step with one another. At the 11th Asian Games, the cheering teams of the North and South, amid the attentions of the world, cheered jointly for the first time since the nation was divided. By so doing, they displayed the dignity and honor of our nation, and further boosted our people's wish for reunification. If the North and South, as they did in conducting the joint cheering at the 11th Asian Games, place the common interests of the nation on the top of the list in many areas, and if they cooperate and keep step with one another to defend them, the dignity and honor of our people, who have a 5,000-year-long history and culture, and who are wise and talented, can be firmly defended and further displayed.

Thus, North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena, is an important guarantee for creating favorable conditions for achieving the reunification of our country at an early date.

North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena also agrees with the current global trend where divided countries have been reunified, and detente and reconciliation are sought.

Until not long ago, some countries and peoples remained divided. The specific historical backgrounds and conditions for their division were somewhat different. Some were divided because of the result of the foreign imperialists' colonial rule, and some were divided as a result of the international action taken after defeat in a war. However, regardless of the historical backgrounds and conditions for their division, they recently have brought an end to the history of their division, and have achieved reunification by keeping step and cooperating with one another at home and abroad. The continuation of the division was unfavorable for the unified development of their countries. So these once divided countries have come to be reunified.

Only in our country is the division still continuing against the trend of the world. Today, amid the atmosphere of detente and reconciliation, more and more countries are joining in the demand for the discontinuation of our country's division. They are watching with deep interest our people's struggle for the reunification of the fatherland.

North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena is also in compliance with the current global trend where the divided countries are reunified and detente and reconciliation are sought. North-South cooperation in the international arena is profitable also for the peoples of the countries in the Asia and Pacific region who struggle for the peace and security of the region.

The North and South, in compliance with the people's unanimous desire and will, and with the trend of the world, must cooperate and keep step with one another in the international arena in order to accelerate the reunification of the fatherland.

It is important for North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena, to adopt a correct stand and attitude.

Adopting a correct stand and attitude is a precondition for successful cooperation. Only when a correct stand and attitude is adopted, can success be won.

The purpose of North-South cooperation in the international arena is to create favorable conditions for the reunification of the fatherland. Therefore, North-South cooperation in the international arena must agree with the cause of reunification, and must be directed toward reunification. If it is not favorable for reunification, cooperation cannot be genuine cooperation, and such cooperation actually has nothing to do with defending the common interests of the nation.

In dealing with issues in international relations, the North and South must equally maintain the principle for creating favorable international conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. In particular, the South Korean authorities must abandon the wrong stand toward the perpetuation of the division of the country. They must adopt a correct stand and attitude toward reunification in compliance with the people's spirit of reunification.

In our country, different ideologies and systems have long existed in the North and South. Accordingly, differences of opinion and temporary difficulties can develop in cooperating with one another in the international arena. However, the North and South must always maintain the stand that they are the same nation, and must maintain the principle of placing not the interests of one side but the common interests of the nation at the top of the list. At the same time, in settling matters, they must adopt a stand and attitude of making sincere and earnest efforts to narrow differences in opinion. When such a stand and attitude is adopted, the North and South can keep step with one another in the international arena and successfully settle matters.

Also important in North-South cooperation in defending the common interests of the nation in the international arena, is a joint advance in many areas of foreign relations.

Foreign relations are very comprehensive and extensive, and there are many areas where the North and South should seek joint advance. Among other things, the most urgent issue today is the issue of UN membership which arises in the political field. This is because the issue of our country's UN membership is directly linked with the question of reunification, and is the issue of the people's deep interest.

Today, the divisionists, frightened by the spirit of reunification growing among the peoples of the North, the South, and abroad, are babbling about "northern policy," "unilateral UN entry," and the "recognition of existence." They are scheming to legalize and perpetuate the division of the country. In particular, they are persistently seeking the maneuver for "unilateral UN entry" under the support of foreign forces. This is an antireunification act designed to create two Koreas by perpetuating the division of Korea under the name of the United Nations, and is a criminal act of pouring cold water on the people's desire for reunification.

Our party and the Government of the Republic, opposing the division of the country and seeking reunification, consistently hold that UN membership be obtained through the reunification of Korea. In case the North and South enter the United Nations before reunification, they must do so jointly. They must do so with a single seat, not with two seats, thus serving the cause of reunification.

Not only in the United Nations but also at the various international organizations, including the Interparliamentary Union, and international conferences, the North and South must cooperate and keep step with one another as the same nation.

In the economic, cultural, and sports areas as well, the North and South must cooperate with one another in the international arena to the common interests of the nation. In particular, as was expressed in the letter of agreement adopted in the course of the reunification soccer match held in Pyongyang, the North and South must participate as single North-South teams in the 41st World Table Tennis Championship, the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, the Third Asian Winter Games, and other major international sports events.

In the cultural field, by using the experience of the North-South film festival held in New York last October, the North and South must continue to hold film festivals in Pyongyang and Seoul, and to jointly participate in international film festivals, thus strengthening North-South cooperation and keeping step with one another.

If the North and South cooperate with one another in the international arena on the grounds that they are the same nation, a new vista will open in achieving North-South reconciliation and unity, and the bright prospect for the reunification of the fatherland will become even brighter.

For North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena, it is also particularly important to create an atmosphere of mutual trust.

To adopt a correct stand and attitude toward cooperation, trust must be guaranteed. At the same time, for joint advance in the international arena as well, trust is necessary. Without mutual trust between the North and South, cooperation is not possible, and cooperation cannot be directed toward reunification.

For mutual trust between the North and South, the political and military confrontation must be eliminated first, and reconciliation must be achieved by discontinuing antagonism and distrust toward one another. Only then, can the North and South, in the international arena as well, bid farewell to the mutual confrontation and competition of the tormented past, and honestly cooperate and keep step with one another toward the pannational cause of the fatherland's reunification.

North-South cooperation to defend the common interests of the nation in the international arena is an important precondition to creating favorable international conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, and to achieving reunification in a form of confederal system as soon as possible.

The North and South, by cooperating with one another and advancing jointly in the international arena, must open a new chapter in accelerating the cause of the reunification of the fatherland—the supreme task of the nation—and in displaying the dignity and honor of the nation.

Japanese Local Assemblies Approve Normalization

SK1803052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0454 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Local assemblies of Japan adopted recommendations and petitions urging an early normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, according to a KNS [Korean News Service] report from Tokyo.

In a petition adopted on March 8, the Yamaguchi prefectural assembly said an early normalization of diplomatic relations is necessary in view of the fact that Yamaguchi Prefecture and the Korean peninsula had maintained close relations in culture, economy, art and other fields from ancient times.

It is of weighty significance for peace and prosperity of Asia, the petition noted, that negotiation for the normalization of diplomatic relations is going on between the Governments of Japan and the DPRK. It strongly urged the Japanese Government and Diet to redouble their efforts for an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

The Fukuoka city assembly and the Tochigi prefectural assembly adopted recommendations respectively on the 7th and 11th, demanding that Japan-DPRK relations be normalized at an early date.

Soviet, CSFR Delegations Arrive 18 Mar

SK1803111291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1041 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Arriving here today were a Soviet Government delegation for scientific and technological cooperation led by Vice-Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology M. Kruglov, a Soviet-Korean Friendship Society delegation led by Vice-Chairman of its Central Committee K. Balakhmetov and a government trade delegation of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Lubomir Martak.

Papers Mark Anniversary of Pact With Soviets

SK1703090591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0824 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the 42nd anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed article:

The Korean and Soviet peoples have forged and deepened the bonds of friendship in the struggle against imperialism and for national and social emancipation.

Wide-range exchanges and cooperation have taken place in the economy and culture between the two countries in the spirit of the Korean-Soviet economic and cultural agreement. This benefitted the economic construction in the two countries.

Today the Soviet people are striving to surmount the complicated difficulties, consolidate the Soviet social system and achieve stability and social and economic development of the country.

They are working hard to realize universal disarmament and preserve peace and security in Europe and the world.

Convinced that the exchanges and cooperation will further expand and develop in the economic and cultural sectors between the two countries, we wish the Soviet people new success in their work.

MINJU CHOSON says in a signed article:

Our people value the achievements made in developing economic and cultural cooperation and exchanges between the two countries.

The Korean people will strive to expand and develop the relations of economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries more favorably.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Indonesian Delegation

SK1803120691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Indonesian parliamentary delegation headed by its Deputy Speaker Saiful Sulun at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on March 18.

Present there were Paek In-chun, vice-chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, and R. Muhamed Muharam Sumadipraja, Indonesian ambassador to Korea.

The head of the delegation said what impressed him deeply during his Korea visit was that construction was progressing on a large scale and everything of the country is devoted to the promotion of the people's welfare.

Touching upon the reunification question of Korea, he stated: We support the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the reunification and its view on the UN membership problem.

He wished good health and long life to His Excellency President Kim Il-song and dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

Kim Yong-nam Receives Letter From Lao Leader

SK1703094391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0801 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—A solidarity letter came to Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam from Lao Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut in support of the new proposal for national reunification advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address for this year.

Saying that the new proposal of President Kim Il-song is a manifestation of the efforts and good will to accomplish the cause of peaceful reunification of the country and turn the Korean peninsula into a peaceful, stabilized and secure zone, the letter notes that the Lao party, Government and people fully support this constuctive proposal.

The Lao party, Government and people consider that Korea's reunification and the peace and security on the Korean peninsula are inseparably linked with each other, it says, adding: The new proposal provides conditions for making it possible to excellently solve these problems.

It wishes the fraternal Korean people success in the struggle to achieve the cause of peaceful reunification of the country and ensure the happiness of the Korean people under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea led by Comrade President Kim Il-song.

Ugandan Government Education Delegation Arrives

SK0803113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—A government education delegation of the Republic of Uganda headed by John M. Ntimba, minister of state for higher education of the Ministry of Education, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Song Chae-song, first vice-minister of higher education.

Holds Meeting With Chang Chol

SK1503235591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—DPRK Vice-premier Chang Chol today met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with the Ugandan Government education delegation led by John M. Ntimba, minister of state for higher education of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Uganda, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the Education Commission, was on hand.

Noting that Korea shows preferential interest in education, the head of the delegation said through the visit he deeply acquainted himself with the achievements of Korea in developing education.

Conveying fervent greetings and wishes for longevity to the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il from His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, the government and the people of Uganda, he wished an everlasting prosperity to the Korean people.

Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Mauritius Leaders

SK1103124791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on March 9 sent a message of greetings to Governor-General Veerasamy Ringadoo and Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth of Mauritius on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the independence of Mauritius.

In the message he sincerely wished the governor-general, the prime minister and the people of Mauritius great success in their work for national unity and modernization of the country.

Dailies Mark Independence Day of Mauritius

SK1203103091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate signed articles to the 23rd anniversary of independence of Mauritius.

NODONG SINMUN says in an article that the independence of Mauritius was another vivid example showing a great change in the era of independence.

The people of Mauritius have struggled to defend independence and build a new life for 23 years since the independence, the paper points out, and goes on:

As a result, the looks of the country have changed much.

The Government of Mauritius is directing big efforts to developing tourism.

The friendly relations between the two peoples of Korea and Mauritius are developing on good terms.

The Korean people warmly congratulate the people of Mauritius on the day of independence and wish them great successs in their future work for the prosperity of the country.

A by-lined article of MINJU CHOSON notes that the Government of Mauritius is developing friendly relations with other countries of the world, while externally pursuing the non-aligned policy, and striving to turn the Indian Ocean into a nuclear free, peace zone.

The Korean people believe that the friendly relations between the two peoples will grow stronger on the principles of the non-aligned movement and in mutual interests, says the article.

Kim Chong-il Sends Greetings to Foreign Leaders

SK1103124891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to party and state leaders of different countries in reply to their messages of greetings on his birthday.

He sent reply messages to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia; Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and general secretary of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; and Mengistu Haile-Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and commander-in-chief of the revolutionary Army.

In the messages he expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties and peoples of Korea and the above-said ocountries would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to Malagasy School

SK0903112491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a gift to the Nansan Senior Middle School in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

A ceremony for conveying the gift was held at the school on March 6.

It was addressed by Arsos Ratsifehera, member of the Supreme Council of Revolution of Madagascar, members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution and the director of the school.

The speakers extended warmest thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il for the precious gift which will contribute to the educational work of Madagascar and expressed the resolution to devote their all to the work for bringing up the rising generation to be the master of the future.

The director of the Nansan Senior Middle School said that receiving such precious gift is a glory and pride not only for his school, teachers, and pupils but also for the entire Malagasy teachers and pupils.

The chairman of the Antananarivo Provincial People's Council stressed that the gift is a priceless wealth for the youth and pupils and the development of the nation.

A letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the ceremony.

School Sends Thank-You Note

SK1003093891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter from the participants in the ceremony for conveying his gifts which was held at the Nansan Senior Middle School in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on March 6.

The letter says:

At this emotional moment when we have received gifts, we vow to build our school into a model educational base by taking a good care and making an effective use of the valuable educational appliances sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il, a genius of ideology and theory, an outstanding statesman and a great teacher.

They resolved to assiduously learn from the brilliant childhood of Comrade Kim Chong-il and prepare themselves to be dependable personnel who will shoulder the future of Madagascar.

The letter sincerely wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Malagasy Official

SK1803110991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Didier Ratsiraka, general secretary of the Malagasy vanguard of revolution, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the vanguard.

In the message he says:

Over the past 15 years since its founding the Malagasy vanguard of revolution has waged the struggle to attain new socio-economic development upholding the banner of the socialist regional charter under your correct leadership and made great achievements in it.

We regard the successes made by the Malagasy vanguard of revolution and your people as our own and warmly congratulate them.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I sincerely wish you greater success in your responsible work for the strengthening of your vanguard of revolution and for the independent development of the country and express the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation forged between our two parties and peoples will grow stronger and develop in conformity with the spirit of South-South cooperation in the future, too.

Anniversary of Relations With Burundi Observed

SK1103120891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 11 Mar 91

["Burundi, Friendly Country"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 24th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between Korea and Burundi.

The paper in a signed article says: The opening of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the two countries marked a major landmark in the development of the relations between the two countries.

Over the last 24 years the two peoples have supported and cooperated with each other on the road of building a new society.

The Korean people are happy to have such friendly country as Burundi on the African Continent.

The Burundi people have made many successes in the past endeavours for consolidating the national independence and building a new prosperous society.

In these years the Burundi Government and people have directed much efforts to the development of national economy, adhering to an independent stand.

The Republic of Burundi is striving for peace and stability in the Central African region and other parts of the world, pursuing a non-alignment policy externally.

The Korean people are rejoiced over the achievements of the Burundi people in the building of a new society.

They will, in the future, too make efforts to furthur develop the friendly relations with the Burundi people and other peoples of the world in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Kim Yon-nam, Entourage Return From African Tour

SK1203154391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and his entourage returned home today after visiting Seychelles, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Libya.

They were met at the airport by First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu, other officials concerned and Ethiopian, Libyan and Chinese diplomatic envoys to Korea.

Peruvian Party Leader Criticizes Team Spirit

SK1003093591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Eduardo Caceres, secretary general of the Mariateguist Unified Party of Peru, denounced the "Team Spirit" military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities as a challenge to the Korean people and as a threat to peace and reunification of Korea.

When he met with the DPRK ambassador to Peru on March 5 he expressed firm solidarity with the Workers'

Party of Korea and the Korean people in their struggle for peace of Korea and her peaceful reunification.

The successful building of socialism by the Workers' Party of Korea by its own efforts is an example for the revolutionary parties of the world, he stressed.

Table Tennis Federation President Arrives

SK0903114991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—President of the International Table Tennis Federation Ichiro Ogimura arrived here today.

The guest was met at the airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Sports Commission Hwang Pong-yong.

Praises Joint North-South Team

SK1203054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Ichiro Ogimura, president of the International Table Tennis Federation, stated that the Federation would make every possible effort for a success of the unified team of the North and the South of Korea which was formed with much difficulty.

He said this when he saw a training of paddlers of the North selected for the North-South unified team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships, at the table tennis gymnasium in Chongchun Street, Pyongyang, Monday.

Warmly hailing the participation of the North and the South of Korea as a unified team, he said the agreement reached on the unified team reflects the desire of the entire Korean people to peacefully reunify the divided country.

The realisation of the North-South unified team is of weighty significance for the entire Korean people, going beyond the sphere of sports, he said, and continued:

If the unified team registers success in the joint training and championships it will have a very good influence on the reunification of Korea, I think.

Japan, the host country of the championships, too, attaches great importance to the participation of the unified team, and the Japanese sincerely wish the unified team fine success.

I believe that the players of the North-South unified team will certainly score good results in the forthcoming championships.

Article Stresses Party, Political Work Method

SK1803110791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—In order to conduct party building and activities in accordance with the intrinsic character of the Workers' Party of Korea, it is imperative to thoroughly apply the party and political work method, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

It is an important demand in strengthening the party leadership with main emphasis on the work with people to apply the party and political work method, the article notes and goes on:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"We should now grasp the demands of the revolution as it develops and meet the needs of the situation in which the workers of a new generation that have not been trained in the arduous struggle are continuously increasing in number, and strive without ceasing to apply the party and political work method."

In his works including "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People", the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il comprehensively clarified the essence of the party and political work method and the theoretical and practical questions arising in applying it. This indicates the guideline with which our party can successfully discharge its mission as a leading political organizer.

Our party was the first in the history of the working class party building to have advanced a new principle that the work with people is the main in the party work on the basis of the man-centered chuche idea and is constantly strengthening party leadership. What is important here is to thoroughly apply the party and political work method.

The party and political work method means to give precedence to the political work, bring the party's intention home to the people with explanation and persuasion and awaken them, so that they may set to work of their own accord. This is the most revolutionary method of leadership to suit the intrinsic character of the revolutionary party of chuche.

To apply the party and political work method enables our party, above all, to enforce policies according to the will of the people.

Only when it enforces policies reflecting the aspirations and demand of the popular masses and giving rise to their wisdom and strength, can the working-class party successfully carry on its historical mission.

Today our party has thoroughly applied the party and political work method, displaying its great vitality.

Thanks to the embodiment of the party and political work method, the party and the revolutionary ranks have become a socio-political organism, the driving force of the revolution which are firmly armed with the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of the working class and united around the party and the leader organizationally and ideologically, morally and faithfully.

Applying the party and political work method makes it possible to rouse the people to action ideologically and to successfully carry out the revolution and construction.

The entire party members and working people of our country are giving full play to their conscious enthusiasm and creative activity, upholding the banner of revolution, the banner of socialism. This proud reality has been realised by our party which has set in motion the ideology of the popular masses by the party and political work method.

As our party consistently and thoroughly applies the party and political work method to strengthen the party leadership with main emphasis on the work with the people, the revolutionary enthusiasm of our people is growing higher as the days go by and they are working world-startling miracles and innovations in all parts of the country.

Our reality clearly shows that only when the party and political work method is applied, can the people be moved ideologically and herein lies an important secret of all victories and successes.

Efforts for Intellectualization of Society Made

SK0903104691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Strenuous efforts have been made in area to intellectualize the whole of society.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has said:

"The most important goal of our cultural revolution is to intellectualize the whole of society".

Intellectualization of the whole society is a noble task to heighten the cultural and intellectual level of all the members of society to that of the university graduate so as to eliminate the distinctions between mental and physical labour left over by the old society and bring about the complete equality of the working people.

At the 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 1980, President Kim Il-song gave teachings on intellectualizing the whole society and expounded in detail questions of principle to this end.

The state has pushed ahead with long-sighted preparations for the compulsory higher education under the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The number of the regular institutions of higher learning and study-while-working higher educational institutions has increased year by year.

More than 100 universities and colleges have been set up in the last ten years, bringing their number to 270.

Among them are over 100 factory colleges, farmers' colleges, fishermen's colleges and other study-while-working colleges.

A TV college was also set up.

As a result of great increase in the number of the educational institutions and improvement in the quality of education, a large number of competent technicians and experts have been brought up every year.

The past decade has seen the appearance of a large army of 500,000 intellectuals. This has brought the total number of intellectuals in Korea to 1.5 million.

KCNA Review of 16 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK1603052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in reply to his message of greetings on the 28th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria.

Works of the great leader President Kim Il-song are deeply studied in foreign countries, says the press.

South Korean peasants are highly praising President Kim Il-song, saying that "the wise agricultural policy of the great General Kim Il-song should be enforced in South Korea, too," and magazine "Study of Kimilsongism" No. 53 was issued in Japan, according to the press.

Works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported in foreign countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article telling that Comrade Kim Chong-il has built the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex to be a gigantic power base and MINJU CHOSON an article about his loving care and solicitude for supplying fresh fishes to the citizens of the capital all the year round.

Papers inform the readers that a national meeting of railway workers closed.

Econews of the press includes reports that more than 100 workteams of the Komdok Mining Complex, a gigantic non-ferrous ore producer, hit their first quarterly assignments and sowing of rice in rice seedling beds has begun on cooperative farms.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article under the title "It Is Our People's Steadfast Will To Add Lustre to Dignity and Honor of Chuche Korea Under the Leadership of the Party."

NODONG SINMUN introduces the newly-released Korean feature film "Girls in My Native Village" (parts one and two.) the film deals with the beautiful spiritual world of young people through the story that a country girl married a disabled soldier.

Conveyed in papers is news that the Guinean president met Korean experts working at the Kim Il-song Agricultural Science Institute.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article of military analyst Chang Song-ik entitled "'Team Spirit' joint military exercises are test nuclear war for pre-emptive strike on our Republic."

Papers carry a letter of protest sent by the senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission to the senior member of the U.S. side in connection with the holding of the "Team Spirit 91" war exercises at the full-fledged stage.

Conveyed in papers are voices at home and abroad denouncing the military exercises.

Carried in papers is a letter sent by Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the South Side Headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for Reunification (Pomminnyon), to Yun I-sang, chairman of the Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon.

The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland published Information No. 583 condemning the suppression by the South Korean ruling group in connection with the "local assembly election," says NODONG SINMUN.

Papers in commentaries hit out at the puppet "Security Planning Agency" and "Secret Affairs Command" (formerly the security command of the puppet army) for engaging themselves in arbitrariness and intrigue, meddling in the "local assembly election".

Papers inform the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged nuclear air strike exercises, "large-scale river-crossing [passage indistinct], closer regional cooperation, the Ugandan president appealed to the European Economic Community not to lift economic sanctions on South Africa, and a summit of the Union of Arab Magreb was held.

Articles analysing the confusion and stagnation of the U.S. economy are carried in papers.

Review of 18 March NODONG SINMUN

SK1803062791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song sent by the participants in the inaugural meeting of the Venezuelan National Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea. Also given in the daily is an account of the inaugural meeting held in Caracas.

Printed in the daily is a message of solidarity to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent by Gustavo Mohme Ryona, national secretary general of the Socialist Political Action Party of Peru, in denunciation of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises and in support of the Korean people in their struggle for the peaceful reunification of the country.

President Kim Il-song received a message of thanks from Juliao Mateus Paulo, executive secretary of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, leaving Korea, says the daily.

The daily reports that foreign newspapers carried answers given by President Kim Il-song to questions raised by the president of the Nepal Journalists Association and that works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated in different countries.

The daily carries a story that Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely led the whole party to go down among the masses by thoroughly applying the anti-Japanese guerrilla work method.

"It Is an Important Demand in Strengthening Party Leadership To Apply Party Method, Political Method" is the title of an article of the daily.

It carries an editorial calling for powerfully assisting the construction of dwelling houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang including the Tongil Street.

Econews of the daily includes reports about the stepped up construction of the Sariwon potassic festilizer complex, upsurge in the production of mining equipment and the start of sowing of seed rice on cold-frame beds at rural villages in west coastal area of the country.

The daily reports about sprint and jump tournament and the Indonesian parliamentary delegation's stay in Korea.

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru met with the DPRK ambassador to his country, says the daily.

Included in the South Korean news columns of the daily are reports that more than 10,000 students and dissident figures in Seoul held an anti-"government" demonstration, people's rallies denouncing the Suso housing scandal were held in different parts and religionists started a fast prayer in demand of the resignation of the present "regime" and the release of prisoners of conscience.

The daily carries an article captioned "Headquarters of the Suso Scandal Is 'Chongwadae'".

Given in the daily are Information No. 584 of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, a joint statement issued by 20 members of the parliament of India and an article entitled "'Team Spirit' Revealing the Aggressive Nature of the U.S. Imperialists".

The daily conveys voices of South Korean public circles and the world public supporting the DPRK new proposal for national reunification.

According to the daily, the 42nd anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union was celebrated in Moscow.

The daily informs the readers that the State Statistical Bureau of China issued an information on the national economy and social development in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, Kaysone Phomvihan stressed the need to strengthen guidance to the Armed Forces at the third meeting of the Lao Armed Forces, and the president of the state of Palestine condemned Israel for harassing peace.

The daily deals with high-pitched contact and dispute between the United States and the Philippines with the approach of the expiration of the term for the use of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

South Korea

Students, Dissidents Clash With Police in Seoul

SK1603115591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1137 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—About 10,000 students and dissidents clashed with riot police in major Seoul streets after their abortive bid to hold an anti-government rally was foiled by riot police.

Dissident organizations and students planned to hold their rally at the Pagoda Park in downtown Seoul but police troops sealed off the park to block the rally. The planned rally was to press the government to reinvestigate the Suso housing scandal which rocked Korea for several weeks.

Dissident leaders gave up their plan and issued a statement at the Christian Center. Some 8,000 students in the Seoul area and 2,000 members of dissident organizations staged violent protests at several streets including those in front of the Seoul Railroad Station, South and East Gates, hurling stones and petrol bombs on riot police who tried to disperse the protestors firing tear gas.

Demonstrators once seized a 10-lane road linking the South Gate and the Seoul Railroad Station, chanting slogans such as "Down With (President) No Tae-u: Dissolve the Democratic Liberal Party." Police dispersed the crowd after half an hour.

At the South Gate police station, three policemen fired 16 blank shots to disperse some 150 students storming against the police building.

About 3,300 protestors were whisked away by police on the scenes of demonstrations in downtown and streets near universities in Seoul.

Soviet Sailor Defects, Seeks Asylum in U.S.

SK1703063591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Kunsan, Korea, March 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—A Soviet sailor has been in custody of a U.S. Air Base in this western port city, 170 kilometers southwest of Seoul, after he sought an asylum in the United States early Sunday morning, Korean police and maritime sources here said Sunday.

Vyacheslav Chuprakov, 28, an engineer of the Soviet freight ship, Kapitan Ijotov, called at the U.S. Air Base around 1 A.M. Sunday along with two other Soviet seamen and expressed his wish for exile in the United States. The two other sailors were learned to have returned to their ship.

The 4,199-ton freighter, belonged to the Soviet company of Primorsk, arrived at the Kunsan port Friday afternoon with 5,100 tons of molasses.

The Soviet vessel, skippered by Andrey Kharitonov, is scheduled to leave here for the Soviet Union at 3 P.M. Monday after unloading the cargo.

Foreign Minister Stresses UN Membership Need

SK1803072191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea can no longer delay joining the United Nations, even if North Korea refuses to cooperate for simultaneous admission, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Monday.

"Under this basic policy objective, the government will make an all-out effort to gain U.N. membership in close cooperation with its allies," he told a policy seminar sponsored by the Korea Parliamentarians' Society.

Yi, in an address on foreign affairs, repeatedly stressed the need for Seoul to become a full member of the United Nations this year.

"Improvement, if not normalization, of relations with China will be of great significance, as it will lay the foundation for peace and stability in Northeast Asia and reunification of the Korean peninsula," he predicted.

Seoul would strengthen mutually cooperative ties, using the exchange of trade representative offices with Beijing as momentum, he said.

Government Said To Change Strategy Toward North

SK1803042491 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 18 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Concluding that North Korea has shown no basic change in its policy toward the South after three rounds of South-North high-level talks, the government is reported to have decided to change the basic tenor of its policy toward the North, from its hitherto cooperative approach of regarding the North as a partner to a policy of guiding the North to open itself up and to break away from its policy of linking the UN issue to South-North dialogue. It has also decided to push ahead with the UN issue independently.

North Korea has intensified its "united front strategy" after Kim Il-song proposed a "political consultative conference for national reunification" in his New Year's address. The government has decided to stop responding to such proposals with a fragmented approach. Deciding instead to respond to North Korea's "united front strategy" with a comprehensive and systematic approach, the government offices concerned, such as the Office of Prime Minister, the National Unification Board, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are now working out general measures.

A government official said on 16 March: "Until now the government has approached North Korea as a partner with whom we have to cooperate, hoping all the while that it would change its attitude toward the South. This is why we have linked the UN issue to South-North dialogue. Far from showing any sign of changes in its attitude toward the South, North Korea has been deliberately trying to downgrade the talks between the authorities, and has intensified the united front strategy. So, our government has decided to change the basic tenor of our policy toward North Korea to an approach of "our guiding it" and to resolutely respond to North Korea's united front strategy."

He explained: "The government's recent turnabout in policy where it seeks unilateral admissiion to the United Nations before the end of this year, is part of such a changed policy. When we become a UN member before North Korea, it will initially raise objections, but it will eventually follow suit out of necessity."

The government is expected to make clear its stand to the North side at the fourth round of South-North high-level talks which is likely to be held in May, and will press the North to explain about such internal affairs as the abuse of human rights and the oppression of its residents, as part of an effort to promote substantial exchange and cooperation with North Korea.

The government is also reported to be strengthening public relations in order to make people understand the true colors and goals of such political offensives as the "political consultative conference" and the "adoption of a nonaggression declaration" that North Korea has put forward as part of the united front strategy. It is expected to take resolute steps regarding the pannational meeting which North Korea is likely to stage again on the anniversary of national liberation, including efforts to discourage domestic dissenters from establishing links to it.

N-S Table Tennis Meeting Rescheduled for 20 Mar

SK1803101591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—Liaison officials from South and North Korea will meet at the truce village of Panmunjom on Wednesday, one day later than scheduled, to discuss arrangements for jointly contesting the World Table Tennis Championships in Japan next month.

North Korea asked for the delay Monday, saying it needed more time to prepare for the meeting, an official at the South-North dialogue office said.

Players from the two Koreas are scheduled to meet March 25 in Tokyo to form the united team.

Propaganda, 'Calm' Situation in Pyongyang Viewed

SK1803064791 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 18 Mar 91 p 5

["Special to KOREA DAILY" by Michael Breen]

[Text] Pyongyang—Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans took to the streets last weekend in a massive show of workers' power. But unlike similar numbers massed in Belgrade at the same time, the Koreans wielded long-handled shovels and brooms not clubs. Their mission: to sweep clean of snow the streets of this showcase city.

By 7 a.m. the heavy overnight snowfall had been brushed into piles and shoveled down manholes. Workers hosed offending snow from the 23 meter high statue of Kim Il-song, the hardline communist who has ruled north Korea since 1946.

The dramatic display of mobilization underscored the iron grip which Kim continues to exercise over his 21 million subjects.

In contrast to the political turmoil in other East bloc nations, all appears calm in the self-styled "Workers Paradise."

"There is no rebellion here," said a senior diplomat.

Kim's plan to hand over power to his son, Kim Chong-il, also appears to be back on track. The younger Kim disappeared from public view last year, apparently while his father tightened controls to manage diplomatic and economic crisis.

Even students, the vanguard of protest in the South and other Asian countries, are silent.

Students Recalled

Kim took preemptive action last year by recalling Korean students from Eastern Europe, who were exposed to the anti-communist revolts. East bloc embassies tried unsuccessfully to locate some of them and concluded they had been sent to reeducation camps.

A combination of mind-numbing propaganda from kindergarten onwards and a pervasive security apparatus maintains the Orwellian fiction that, as one slogan puts it, "We are happy."

Controls are also maintained by a rationing of information on a strict need-to-know basis. In an interview, the vice president of the Korea Taesong Bank, Chang Kon-il, a sophisticated executive, said he did not know the national savings rate, but did say that he personally saved 20 percent of his 200 won (95 dollars) monthly salary.

At the Korea Feature Film Studios, public relations official Yi Chong-tuk said every Thursday filmmakers watched foreign films to study technique. He said his favorites included James Bond films and MacArthur starring Gregory Peck.

North Korea publishes almost no statistics and no negative news, which explains honest ignorance about the existence of social problems. "There is no alcoholism in our country," says Kim Sang-pok, an administrative official at the Kim Man-yu hospital in Pyongyang.

Ordinary North Koreans are kept "happy" by their total isolation from the outside world. They have not even learned yet that men have landed on the moon.

At an otherwise exciting performance by the People's Army Acrobatic Troupe, an internationally acclaimed team of gymnasts and comics, the flop of the night is a Kim Chong-il Flower Dance by girls in white dresses.

The dance is one example of the recent increase in the younger Kim's promotion, raising speculation that the handover may take place next year on the Great Leader's 80th birthday.

Chinese officials in Pyongyang were dumbfounded when they were informed last month that the younger Kim, known as the 'Dear Leader," was now commander-in-chief of the armed forces. "You don't have two commanders-in-chief," said a diplomat.

Dear Leader's Shaky Grip

Embassy officials all say that the Dear Leader will not be able to keep his grip on power after his father dies. Predictions of the length of his rule vary from three days to two years.

"I would guess that about 40 percent of the nomenklatura support him," said the senior diplomat. "You just have to look at his face to know he is not acceptable or prepared for leadership.

"He is impulsive, aggressive and unsympathetic in appearance. He has no charisma like his father for Koreans."

One scenario has Kim Pyong-il, currently the ambassador to Bulgaria. Scheming in the background, the analysts speculate, is Kim Sun-ae, Pyong-il's mother and the Great Leader's wife.

However, the diplomat acknowledged that he has never heard a private, let alone public, criticism of Kim Chong-il. He also said that the younger Kim had been in charge of day-to-day domestic affairs, including the security apparatus, for several years.

There is some speculation among scholars that diplomats may tend to rule out Kim Chong-il because he never meets them. The elder Kim handles all foreign affairs.

Diplomats are without exception treated as spies and find themselves under constant surveillance. The "spooking" is frequently more Keystone Cops than sinister.

When this reporter called a foreign envoy late at night to make a lunch appointment for the next day, the envoy's wife was informed of the appointment by her foreign ministry-supplied maid. The diplomat had told no one of his schedule. Later a furtive-looking man took a flash photograph of our meeting in a hotel bar.

In such an environment diplomats see no likelihood of change. "As long as Kim Il-song is alive and in power it is impossible to expect any real opening," said one foreign analyst. "If he opens just a little bit, the system will start to collapse. He knows this very well."

Nevertheless, international changes are creating extreme pressures within North Korea. In recent years, the North Koreans have stood helplessly by as their former Chinese and East European backers have developed trade links with archrival South Korea.

Soviets Deliver Final Blow

The final blow came last September when then Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Pyongyang and confirmed that Moscow would follow the other former communist bloc states and open full diplomatic ties with Seoul.

Shevardnadze also backed American demands that Pyongyang open its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities for international inspection and told the North Koreans that as of Jan. 1 this year, Moscow has ended its supply of subsidized "friendship" oil and that it intended to trade in hard currency.

A stunned Kim rushed to Shenyang, China, to consult with Chinese leaders. They gave him public assurances of political support, but promised no economic aid. Their advice: to woo the cash-heavy Japanese.

Ties with Japan are currently being pursued and are expected within the year. Analysts say that links with Germany and ASEAN states are next on the diplomacy agenda. Even Taiwan is being wooed for investment with Beijing's backing. "Our country needs equipment, machinery, computers and office automation equipment," said Chang Kon-il, the vice president of the Korea Daesong Bank, one of the country's two international banks.

"To obtain hard currency to buy them we plan to sell gold, silver and zinc on the international markets," he said. Some analysts say that North Korea has the world's second or third largest deposits of gold. He said his bank would sell three tons of gold on the London Metals Exchange this year.

Huge Unpaid Debts

Chang admitted that the country's defaulting on its debts had been a major stumbling block, but he said the debts would be repaid "soon." North Korean banking officials are currently discussing repayment of 800 million dollars in debts to Western banking syndicates in Germany. North Korea has much larger unpaid bills with the Soviet Union and China.

With an end to cheap Soviet oil, energy is the single most limiting factor in industry with many factories unable to run full time.

In what may be its first cheap labor challenge to the South Korean construction giants in the Middle East, North Korea plans to build 100,000 apartments in Iran to pay for an annual one million tons of oil over the next five years, according to business sources.

Both North and South Korea remain publicly committed to unification. But privately, neither side wants to see it come about in the German-style with the prior collapse of the North and its absorption by the South.

Officials in Seoul, now realistically assessing the costs of unification for the first time, say they want North Korea to build itself up economically before political unification.

The North, meanwhile, fears that any serious opening to the South would result in the collapse of its system. "They are talking with the South, but they are not serious," said one diplomat.

The impasse leaves Korea watchers waiting for the departure Kim Il-song or some more unexpected event.

In the meantime, the hard-pressed citizens of North Korea continue with their snow-sweeping duties, waiting for the spring.

No Tae-u Congratulates Amir on Return to Kuwait

SK1603111691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u Friday sent a congratulatory cable to Amir Jabir al-Ahmad of Kuwait on his return to his country.

"The Korean Government wishes to join all peace-loving nations of the world in rejoicing at the complete reinstatement of the Kuwait Government with your return," No said in the cable.

"Taking this opportunity, I earnestly hope that the on-going reconstruction work will proceed smoothly and that Kuwait will soon regain stability and prosperity," he said.

Seoul To Pay Part of Gulf Contribution to U.S.

SK1603031891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea will soon give the United States 50-60 million U.S. dollars in cash as part of the 280 million dollars in aid it promised for the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war, a senior government official said Saturday.

"The Korean and U.S. Governments have agreed in principle to fix the cash portion of Korea's promised additional assistance to the coalition at 50-60 million dollars," said the official, who asked that he not be identified. "Therefore, our government plans to give the amount to the United States as soon as detailed consultations are completed."

Korea had promised 170 million dollars in kind and 110 million dollars in cash and transportation. It has already contributed 220 million dollars in cash, loan and materials to the coalition and frontline states.

Meanwhile, another government source said Washington has officially asked its allies, including Korea, to turn over the promised aid by April 15.

Sanctions Against Iraqi-Occupied Kuwait Lifted

SK1803111891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1036 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government lifted Monday its economic sanctions against Kuwait following its liberation from Iraq, the Foreign Ministry announced.

The government imposed the sanctions upon Iraqi-occupied Kuwait in compliance with a U.N. Security Council resolution on Aug. 6.

PGO Orders Investigation of Illegal Withdrawals

SK1703020591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] State prosecutors were ordered yesterday to investigate the allegation that an increasing number of local councilor candidates are giving up their election bids after being bribed by rival candidates.

The Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) directed prosecutors nationwide to arrest all local councilor aspirants who withdrew from the race in collusion with other candidates. According to PGO sources, more than 100 candidates have given up their bids since the race began on March 13. On Friday alone, 28 candidates withdrew from the competition.

The sources said a number of candidates called off their bids after receiving money from or being blackmailed by other candidates.

If a candidate withdraws from the local election race, the 2 million won they had deposited with the election management will be automatically transferred to the government coffers, the sources said. That is why the prosecution authorities think a large number of candidacy withdrawals were made in collusion among candidates.

Opposition Demands Probe of Intelligence Agencies

SK1703021691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Opposition parties yesterday demanded a probe of their allegations that intelligence agencies are threatening or causing opposition candidates to withdraw from the March 26 local council elections.

They also urged the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] to stop intervening in the campaigns, an action which they said has been designed to help ruling party candidates dominate the small-unit councils in preparation for large-district local council elections, tentatively scheduled for June.

The NSP's "aggressive meddling" is further aimed at preventing opposition forces from cutting into the local administrations' support of government party candidates for parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for next year, the oppositionists insisted.

The Party and Peace and Democracy [PPD] called on the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC] and law enforcement authorities to investigate its allegations of NSP threats against opposition candidates.

It accused the CEMC of only exerting efforts to impede "proper" activities of opposition parties in the course of campaigns including the holding of outdoor rallies and of conniving at violations of election laws by the No Tae-u administration and its powerful machine.

At the end of the PPD's local council committee meeting, presided over by party leader Kim Tae-chung, it decided to send a mission of lawmakers to the CEMC to protest its alleged ignorance of the administration's intervention in the campaigns and the withdrawal of candidates.

"We are witnessing a series of resignations by opposition candidates due to the "terror" atmosphere being created by intelligence agencies. The phenomenon follows a low competition ratio which has resulted from the "terror" atmosphere created by the NSP and repeated warnings by law enforcement authorities," said PPD spokesman Pak Sang-chon.

He stressed the need to examine whether all of them have been threatened to withdraw their candidacies and whether they were given money to do so by ruling party competitors.

Committee members maintained that some chapters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] are holding a popularity contest of candidates in their areas to press less popular ones to abandon their candidacy.

Rep. [Representative] Cho Se-hyong, chairman of the PPD's policy committee, said that a PPD candidate in his Songdong district, eastern Seoul, disappeared and then was brought to a local election management committee by two stout young men to present a letter of resignation. He claimed there is growing suspicion that the case was masterminded by the intelligence agency.

The splinter opposition Democratic Party [DP] decided to take actions against the withdrawal of candidates allegedly under NSP pressure. Democratic Party Spokesman Chang Sok-hwa said that the NSP is suspected of compelling pro-opposition candidates to withdraw amid tight control of opposition parties during the campaigns by law enforcement authorities.

The DP's campaign committee argued that some of his party candidates suddenly disappeared and withdrew their candidacies.

As of yesterday, over 100 candidates revoked their registration of candidacies with election management committees in which they had to put down a 2 million won deposit which is refundable only to high vote-getters, pushing to nearly 600 the number of candidates who have already been elected without contest.

Under the law, candidates who receive benefits in return for their withdrawal are subject to punishment, along with those who force or induce them to do [so] with threats or money.

Government, DLP Criticized on Local Elections

SK1803105591 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Mar 91 P 2

[Editorial: "Various Indications That Reveal a 'Regime Lacking Self-Confidence'"]

[Text] President No Tae-u's frequent appearances on television and the government's frequent announcements in recent months of its long-term projects, coming on the threshold of the upcoming local council elections, attract a skeptical reaction from the people. Of late, President No Tae-u often appeared on television unexpectedly. By appearing on television during his recent local government inspection tour, he not only caught us by surprise with his official announcement of the conduct of local council elections, but also went so far as to again undo his bundle of past election pledges, which have not been implemented thus far.

The Korea Development Institute also recently released a blueprint which envisages developing our national land in 10 years using 262 trillion won. The Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Education noisily boasted that they would provide free lunch for school children in all primary schools throughout the country by 1996.

This is not all. A giant special government-civilian meeting, held on 14 March to discuss steps to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness and over which President No presided, was televised throughout the country through two television stations for more than two hours. The president's "worries" over and "profound knowledge" in all fields of state affairs were fully demonstrated through the televised relay.

However, labor unions of the two television stations insisted that it was a "function merely with a demonstration effect which was unprecedented even in the era of the Fifth Republic under President Chon Tu-hwan." Other civilian organizations, including the Council for

Economic Justice, recently denounced the government, branding the televised relay of the special government-civilian meeting as a "government act designed to indirectly back up and support pro- government candidates in the local council elections." The people's sympathy toward such denunciations by the stations' labor unions and other civilian organizations concerned is gradually increasing, and consequently it seems that the government has been driven into a corner.

It has been reported that almost 80 percent of all candidates of the local council elections are members of the ruling party and pro-government party candidates. Accordingly, the upcoming local council elections have been the target of people's derision, and the people seem to believe them to be "meaningless elections." Nevertheless, why does the government have to assume an old and hackneyed attitude of talking pork-barrelling on the threshold of the elections. We cannot but believe that the government has lost self-confidence.

Furthermore, news coverage on both President No Tae-u's activities during his recent provincial inspection tour as well as the two hour-long live coverage of the 14 March special government-civilian meeting—which seems to have been strengthened since his recent complaint about the news reporting attitude of press organs, and which reminds us of the press organs' attitude in covering the activity of President Chon Tu-hwan in the period of the Fifth Republic—leads us to have a sort of shocked feeling.

Power becomes tough and stubborn as it comes to a close. That the ruling party can easily and automaticlly achieve the "scenario to dominate local assemblies" is a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, why do the ruling circles have to unnecessarily undertake foolish acts? Do the ruling circles think that only if the president continuously appears on television can he maintain his "existence and prestige"? Is the present regime a weak one which cannot be maintained for the next two years without resorting to such vulgar and foolish public information tactics? If so, the people's rejection of the present regime will be further increased.

The government and ruling party should renounce their foolish act of recklessly announcing unrealistic government projects on the threshold of the upcoming local council elections while binding the hands and feet of the opposition camp. The government and ruling party should also stop all acts which may arouse distrust among the people. The people not only hate a foolish dictatorial regime, but despise a cunning and incompetent one.

Voter 'Apathy' Dampens Local Election Campaigns

SK1803020291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—Due to voter apathy, local elections lack fervor though the official campaign is in swing [as received].

The competition rate was already well below expectations when registration closed, but by Sunday another 119 candidates had pulled out and three been disqualified. This leaves 10,037 candidates vying for 4,304 local council seats, with 593 already elected as they are uncontested.

The nation goes to the polls March 26 in the first local elections since 1961 to elect representatives to councils in small cities, counties and municipal wards. A second set of elections is scheduled within first half of the year in provinces and major cities.

More than 2,000 campaign rallies were held nationwide over the weekend, but almost none drew more than 500 people. Issues were mostly local concerns such as roads, sewage and pollution.

Voters are uninterested because there are not enough popular, trustworthy candidates, analysts say. There are reports in some constituencies of ex-convicts standing. According to the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC], they are qualified to run.

The government and CEMC have taken the sizzle out of the races with their close watch for illegal activities, and ruling party intervention is also turning off voters, the analysts say.

Some candidates in Seoul, Pusan and the Cholla Provinces tried to put some sparkle into their bids by tackling hot political issues, such as the Suso housing scandal, but their appeals have virtually all fallen on deaf ears.

In Kwangju, the heart of opposition territory, voters were unresponsive to demands by candidate Cho Chung-sop, of Kim Tae- chung's Party for Peace and Democracy, for a government explanation of the Suso scandal.

DLP Intraparty Power 'Struggles' Discussed

SK1803104991 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 14 Mar 91 p 9

[Text] Several ominous moves have taken place in the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], which has been busy preparing for local elections, over how to run the political situation when the elections are over.

People inside the DLP unanimously say that, when the elections for city, county, and district assemblies slated for 26 March and those for assemblies for Seoul, municipalities, and provinces slated for June are over, the party will undergo conflicts among factions over important issues on the party's political schedule, including the general elections for the National Assembly and the selection of its presidential candidate.

The DLP, Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], and New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] factions are each earnestly mapping out strategies for a political schedule favorable to each, and the RDP faction led by Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has already begun to show signs of future conflicts.

In late February, when the party was embroiled in discussions on how to politically resolve the Suso housing scandal, Lawmaker Choe Hyong-u, a member of the non-mainstream group in the RDP faction, launched a preemptive strike by saying: "Only when the party's plan for the next presidency is mapped out at the earliest possible date or when, at least, a clear-cut transfer of power takes place in the party, can division in the party which may be caused by uncertainty in the political situation be overcome, and the party's trust, which has been lost, be recovered." He also said: "This matter must be concluded before late August, before the regular National Assembly session opens."

Because the timing was inappropriate, the RDP faction itself assumed a negative position to his remarks, and no further stir was created. However, his remarks symbolize what the RDP faction thinks. This also forecasts a hot contest over control over the party and nominations.

His remarks are in the same vein as what Executive Chairman Kim stressed in mid-February, right after the incident involving a memorandum on the cabinet system. At that time, he said that "politics must be something predictable." However, this time, it appears that such action by Lawmaker Choe was not what Executive Chairman Kim wanted.

Lawmakers Mun Chong-su, Kang Sam-chae, and Choe Ki-son, and other young RDP-faction members went a step further by saying: "When the elections for local assemblies are over, then, it would be impossible to leave the party's long-range political plan indefinite, including a plan for who will succeed President No Tae-u." They went on to say: "If party power is not transferred to Executive Chairman Kim, we cannot help but make a resolute decision, and our resolute decision may include withdrawal from the party."

Many of the RDP-faction members have said that the end of August would be a "deadline" and that Executive Chairman Kim must be allowed to establish a new position in the party before then. They have even asked Executive Chairman Kim to make the decision if this deadline is not met.

A conciliatory atmosphere appears to prevail in the DLP, despite the fact that some corners of this party have been desperate. When he was inspecting the Pusan City Hall on 7 March, President No highly praised Executive Chairman Kim by saying: "I know how much the citizens of Pusan love Executive Chairman Kim. I also know how much Executive Chairman Kim thinks about the development of Pusan."

In response to the remarks by Lawmaker Choe Hyong-u, Chairman Kim Chong-pil said that "this would be no help to Executive Chairman Kim himself" and stressed the operation of the party centering around Executive Chairman Kim. It was also learned that the 5 March dinner meeting held in Samchong-tong to which President No invited Executive Chairman Kim, Chairman Kim, Chairman Pak Tae-chun, and National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu took place in a harmonious atmosphere unseen these days.

Many people say that the conciliatory mood of the leadership is due to the common awareness that division is the last thing to do before the elections for local assemblies. Other people say: "This is a temporary harmony at a time when the decisive battle of the latter half of this year is on the horizon."

It is now generally predicted that confrontation will take place in earnest right after the June elections to local assemblies over the succession plan; it may take place earlier than that.

It is expected that confrontation of the factions will take place over how many concessions the DLP will have to make in passing reform bills in a special National Assembly session in mid-April and over whether or not it must unilaterally pass those bills and that, in case the operation of the National Assembly is crippled, conflicts will take place over where to put the blame.

Considering the fact that a war of nerves breaks out at every opportunity over the operation of politics, all three factions are virtually walking in a mine field.

Intraparty struggles have taken place from early this year up until today largely because of confrontations over and different views on the operation of politics by the so-called new mainstream or a group loyal to President No, which would be tasked with the "management and operation of power" until President No's term expires.

Those loyalists, including Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on, Agency for National Security Planning Director So Tong-kwon, Chongwadae Chief of Staff Chong Hae-chang, and Kim Yong-il, senior Chongwadae secretary for justice and inspection, are trying to restructure the party and the government to ensure that President No personally controls them to prevent the lame duck phenomenon in the later years of President No's rule.

People doubt that, on top of that, they are efficiently exercising their power of inspection and prosecution to ensure that they let his successor emerge by incapacitating the two-Kim (Executive Chairman Kim and Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] President Kim Tae-chung) structure.

As a matter of fact, a serious blow was dealt to the two-Kim structure by the incident involving some National Assembly Trade and Industry Committee members who took bribes in the form of foreign tours, which vividly disclosed the irregularities of the political circles, and by the abrupt outbreak of the Suso scandal.

At first, the PPD rebelled against this political strategy by the new mainstream, describing it as a rule using security affairs. Not only Executive Chairman Kim but also the Democratic Justice Party [DJP]-faction members rebelled.

Referring to the political strategy by the new mainstream, YS [Kim Yong-sam] has said that "priority has been given to security affairs" over political affairs and has asked President No to hand the power to lead the political situation over to the party, and even the TK (Taegu-North Kyongsang Province) faction has shown signs of division.

DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan, who is considered as a member of the old TK faction, has tried to prevent the domineering of the new mainstream. However, he does not appear to be as powerful as he was.

Lawmakers Yi Chong-chan, Yi Cha-hon, and O Yu-pang and other members of the "new political group" are in a delicate position because, even though they agree to a political restructuring formula by the new mainstream, they have a different view on the methodology of the new mainstream and think that priority must be given to the party.

Lawmakers Yi Chun-ku and Yi Han-tong and other leading members of the DJP-faction also agree on the idea of dissolving the two-Kim structure through the competitive selection of a presidential candidate. However, they think that the cold wind caused by inspection and prosecution activities will consequently be a burden to the ruling circles.

The RDP YS faction may well demand the definite transfer of party power in the latter half of the year and a share in the right of recommending lawmaker candidates by properly taking advantage of the divergency of opinion in the DJP faction and concentrating on the restoration of the initiative in leading the politics.

Lawmaker Hwang Pyong-tae, a close aide of YS, is confident that "when the local council elections are over, the party and the political circles will play a dominant role with the development of politics preparing for general elections," and believes that the might of the two Kims will come back.

An RDP lawmaker from South Kyongsang Province confessed, "Without the assurance of YS coming into party power, the RDP-lining lawmakers from Pusan and South Kyongsang Province will find it hard to compete in the elections," and added, "YS should be given a certain share as an heir-apparent, and that is the cosharing of the right to recommend the candidates."

For this, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam intends to fully utilize the tete-a-tete talks which he regularly holds with President No and secure the single President No-YS line system, reminding the latter of the shortcomings of the new mainstream faction's way of running politics.

Another close aide of YS said, "Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has recently met President No and, reminding him that former President Pak Chong-hui brought the political circles under control by writing personal letters appropriately, stressed to him that holding the political circles in their hand with prosecution rights will ultimately burden him," and added, "YS will be able to secure a stronghold in the competition for succession by having a veto right on the recommendation of candidates for the general elections."

In the meantime, the DJP faction is resolutely opposed to the early settlement of the succession issue.

The new mainstream group stresses that when the local council elections are over, President No's choice of the successor will become much wider.

A senior DJP lawmaker said, "When the local council elections are over, President No will be positively appraised as the president who fulfilled his promise of democratization, thereby relieving him of the strain of the political reality characterized by the 'confrontation between the two Kims' and allowing him to make diverse choices in running politics."

The new political group led by Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan may well conduct a campaign to put an end to the two Kims' era through a 'new politics declaration' as soon as the local council elections are over.

The NDRP faction has already turned away from YS, and is expected to exert its energy toward incapacitating the two-Kim politics.

Therefore, the factions within the DLP are looking toward a head-on collision course during the latter half of this year with the YS faction demanding seizure of party power and the DJP-NDRP faction engaging in incapacitating offensive. The result may well be the RDP faction's massive desertion, the compromise between the two factions, or an attempt for the realignment of politics.

In this process, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam can play a win-or-lose card of resigning from his present party post and staying as a common member of the party, or Kim Chong-pil can drown himself with holding YS in his arms as Nongae did with the Japanese general.

Of course, it is most likely that the two factions will compromise and allow Executive Chairman Kim to share the right of recommending candidates so as to conduct the general elections under the present system and present status. Executive Chairman Kim will find no suitable place even if he leaves the party.

Therefore the special National Assembly session this coming April may in fact become the final session of the 13th National Assembly as noted by Executive Chairman Kim, and the major concern of the lawmakers thereafter will be the recommendation of candidates and the succession to the party power.

* Economic Ministers' Troubles, Dilemma Examined

912C0150A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean
3 Feb 91 pp 14-17

[Article by reporter U Chong-chang: "The Economic Ministers Are in a Quandary as They Are Pressed Hard From Above and Lack Miracle Remedies"]

[Text] "Please be at Chongwadae by 0800 tomorrow morning."

This was the emergency Chongwadae telephone message received by 10 or more ministers and the director of the National Tax Administration at about midnight on Saturday, 12 January. They were told to come to the presidential mansion on Sunday morning for an emergency meeting. Those who received the message were: Prime Minister No Chae-pong, Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun, Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui, Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so, Energy and Resources Minister Yi Hui-il, Health and Social Affairs Minister Kim Chong-su, Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Cho Kyong-sik, Transportation Minister Yim In-taek, Home Affairs Minister An Ung-mo; Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, and So Yong-tae, director of the National Tax Administration. All of them, except the home affairs minister, are ministers in charge of economic affairs.

They were puzzled by the midnight call. Evidently, there was something so urgent that the Chongwadae Annex had to make a midnight call, but Chongwadae made no mention of the purpose of the emergency meeting. The Chongwadae side simply conveyed the message, without saying a word about what subjects would be discussed, what preparations they should make, and so forth.

On Saturday morning they had already been dressed down by President No at a Chongwadae meeting convened to hear reports on the results of the implementation of his "13 October" statement. This was followed by another meeting on the same day, convened by Prime Minister No Chae-pong to discuss price problems, during which the prime minister pressed them hard with regard to their performances. On the heels of these two meetings, another meeting was going to be held on the following morning, presided over by the president. Naturally, the ministers thought that this was out of the ordinary. All of them were flustered at midnight, some of them calling their subordinates to tell them to report to work on Sunday.

Troubled by Prime Minister's Operating Style

The ministers became tense as they entered Chongwadae on the morning of 13 January. Presiding over the emergency economic ministers' meeting, President No pointed out that "recently, in the wake of the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, and on the eve of the local assembly elections, the prices of major daily necessities have risen, causing widespread uneasiness about rising prices." He then said: "There are fears that unless rising prices are brought under control at an early stage, the uneasiness about inflation will spread further; therefore, all the economic ministers should stake their jobs on checking 'windfall' price hikes and collusion in pricing."

There is no weekend for the economic ministers. (The economic ministers customarily include 12 cabinet ministers—the ministers of Economic Planning, Finance, Trade and Commerce, Health and Social Affairs, National Construction, Transportation, Energy and Resources, Agriculture and Fisheries, Labor, Communications, Science and Technology, and Environment.) Normally, they attend two or three meetings a day. In addition, they are busy working out measures to bring soaring prices under control and to deal with the ROK-U.S. trade issues, and mapping out a strategy for the Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks, and so forth. On top of all this, with the outbreak of the Gulf War, they have gotten really busy. They grumble, "it is killing us."

This does not necessarily mean that their work load was comparatively light in the past. Since President No declared last year that the nation was in a state of great difficulty, the economic ministers have been busy attending midnight cabinet meetings, etc. But, according to the economic ministers, since early this year, as soon as the New Year's holiday season was over, they have been submerged in a deluge of meeting after meeting.

So many meetings on economic affairs have been held since the beginning of the new year that the economic ministers are grumbling about overwork. They attend a plenary cabinet session each Wednesday afternoon, followed by an economic ministers' meeting at the government building in Kwachon each Thursday afternoon. In addition, each of them attends the meeting of the Overseas Cooperation Committee, the Price Stability Committee, or other committees under their respective jurisdictions, and in addition, meets with officials of economic organizations as occasions arise.

That is their routine. But, beginning early this year, with the meeting at the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) on the morning of 5 January as the start, two cabinet meetings have been held each day, on the average, in the form of a Chongwadae report meeting and that of a meeting among interested ministers to map out countermeasures on various issues. The meeting at the NSP on the morning of 5 January was followed by a meeting of the Overseas Cooperation Committee on the same day to discuss problems related to the Uruguay Round. On 6 January, there was a working session sponsored by the Economic Planning Board. On 7 January, there was another meeting at the NSP, and on 9 January, the concerned ministers met to discuss ROK-U.S. trade issues. On 10 January, there was a meeting at Chongwadae to report on the outcome of what was discussed at the 9 January meeting. On 11 January, a price measures meeting was held, and on 12 January there was a meeting on prices, presided over by the prime minister. On 13, 14, 15, and 18 January a spate of meetings were held, including Chongwadae report meetings and meetings to work out various measures.

The closed-door meetings at the NSP, which begin over breakfast at 0700 in the morning, are regularly attended by five or six cabinet members—the deputy prime minister, the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, trade and industry, agriculture and fisheries, and the senior presidential secretary for economic affairs. So far, these meetings have dealt with ROK-U.S. trade issues, problems concerning prices, labor-management relations, and the Gulf crisis. Depending on the subject matter, other ministers attend in place of some of these regular members. Most of the subjects discussed are economic matters, keeping the economic ministers busy from early morning on.

With so many meetings going on, there are many interesting stories about them. In some cases, only one hour's notice is given before the meeting is scheduled to begin, forcing some ministers to enter the conference room before they finish reading the reports prepared by their subordinates. In some ministries, bureau chiefs in charge call on their ministers late at night to obtain their signatures. In addition, the economic ministers stay more in the government building in Sejongno than in their ministry buildings in Kwachon, so that their bureau chiefs and sections chiefs have to spend the whole day traveling back and forth between Kwachon and Seoul in order to obtain the signatures of their ministers. Not only the ministers are busy; their subordinate are also busy.

They complain that Prime Minister No Chae-pong's new operating style is pouring oil on the flames, so to speak. No sooner had he assumed his post following the cabinet reshuffle on 27 December 1990 than he, breaking the convention, instructed the Economic Planning Board and other economic ministries to submit special beginning-of-the-year operational reports.

Checking Soaring Prices, First Priority Task

In the past, ministries, such as the Economic Planning Board and the Finance Ministry, and the Trade and Industry Ministry prepared their own separate operational reports. But, Prime Minister No requested all concerned ministries to file reports on specific designated subjects. In other words, all ministries concerned were instructed to prepare and submit reports on specific subjects such as those on augmenting economic stability and economic growth, improving people's livelihood and the environment, and curbing inflation. As a result, ministries can no longer get away with whitewashing their performance as they did under the old reporting system. This means an added work load for them.

Furthermore, Prime Minister No began to take personal control of pending economic problems. In the past, it was customary for ministries to report directly to Chongwadae on pending economic problems. But, reports on economic problems in hand are now required to go through the Office of the Prime Minister. For the economic ministries, this amounts to having an extra channel. This is why the outcry "it is killing us" has become all the more loud since Prime Minister No assumed his post.

Still they say that is nothing. They can manage to deal with frequent conferences by making a physical appearance; and as far as Prime Minister No's operating style is concerned, they can just follow it. But the greatest problem is that the requests the economic ministers receive from above are often unrealistic. They are told by the higher authorities to "stake their cabinet posts" on the outcome of their performance in dealing with problems. Yet, the problems in hand are so Herculean that they cannot be solved by merely issuing such orders from above.

The first and foremost task confronting the economic ministers is to bring prices under control. Next comes the elimination of trade frictions between the ROK and the United States. Then come measures for the Uruguay Round, the Gulf War, labor disputes, etc. The main topic at Chongwadae or NSP conferences is how to stabilize prices.

The price issue is directly linked to the question of recovering trust in the government of the Sixth Republic. No matter how loudly the government may shout to the public, "trust us," public trust in the government is bound to hit rock bottom if people feel uneasy about prices, for prices have a direct bearing on their livelihood. The importance of the issue of prices lies in that it is directly linked to the daily lives of the people.

The government has held economic ministers' conferences almost daily since 5 January because from the outset of the new year, there were alarming signs of inflation. Beginning with a 25 to 60 percent rise in public bath fees, other prices such as hair cut fees, hotel charges, coffee and restaurant charges, meat prices, etc. rose 12 to 30 percent simultaneously throughout the country. From the beginning of the year, there were signs of a spiraling trend of prices, spurred by increases in the subway and railway fares and public utility bills. But even the government did not anticipate sudden and simultaneous fee increases in the public service sector.

How to stabilize prices is a question which the economic ministers ought to handle on their own initiative without waiting for presidential instructions. It is quite natural that the president dressed them down for their failure in the performance of their principal duties and issued a stern order to do their best, or else they would be "sacked." Nevertheless, from the standpoint of the economic ministers, who actually handle problems, they are really "desperate" because there is no adequate control mechanism for curbing price hikes.

The recent surprise hikes in public service fees have dealt a great blow to price stability. As late as 1986, the government was free to control these fees. Public service fees were tightly controlled by the government under a "government-authorized fee system," under which businesses could not raise their fees unless authorized by the government. Faced with strong opposition on the part of business, the government shifted public service fees from the government-authorized fee system to a reported-fee system in 1986. Even under the reported-fee system, the government was able to control service fees by means of rejecting reported fees when the reports were submitted.

However, in 1987, with the winds of liberalization sweeping the country, the government promised a liberalization of control over service fees by heeding the strong demand of the businesses. But the government had coaxed the businesses to wait until after 1990 before raising fees. The sudden simultaneous hikes in service fees were the result of the termination of this time limit.

There are only three possible cards that would enable the government to control rising service fees. They are administrative guidance, sanitary inspection, and tax surveillance. Of the three, administrative guidance and sanitary inspection are not strong control devices, and what is more, they are under the jurisdiction of municipal and provincial governments.

Drastic Reshuffle Forecast in Wake of Local Elections

The last remaining card is tax inspection through the National Tax Administration. But it will be next to impossible for the National Tax Administration singlehandedly to inspect each and every one of the public bath houses, hotels, and so forth throughout the country. What is more, the National Tax Administration is currently absorbed in trying to prevent real estate speculation. Such being the case, the government has lost all control devices to all intents and purposes.

Seeing tell-tale signs of rising service fees late last year, the ministries and agencies in charge told the businesses that "you may hike the fees, but should limit the hikes to the level that will save the face of the government." By the level that will save the government's face was meant a one-digit hike. But the businesses turned a deaf ear to this request.

That is where the agonies of the economic ministers lie. They are instructed from above to check price hikes, but there are no adequate methods of imposing sanctions. When they try to cajole the businesses, the businesses balk instead of listening. The economic ministers are caught between Scylia and Charybdis.

The economic ministers hold daily meetings to discuss ways to hold rising prices in check. But they know from the beginning that no miraculous ideas will come out of their meetings. All officials in the economic ministries know that the recently announced price stability package is a rehash of the one announced late last year and there is nothing new to it. Still, they cannot confess to it publicly. They are hustling every day just to give the impression to the public that there is something new in it. The atmosphere is said to be one of self-scorn and the economic ministers call these meetings just "shows."

One official of an economic ministry made the following comment:

"The price of two truckloads of city water is equal to the price of one cup of coffee. They are out of balance. This typifies the reality of prices. The price issue is closely related to the question of a choice between stability and growth. To seek stability, it is necessary to control the volume of currency in circulation, and through this control, price hikes can be curbed. Yet, while saying it is determined to bring prices under control, the government is in reality pursuing contradictory policies, such as that of increasing its fiscal outlays. The government is in a self-imposed dilemma because it is chasing two hares, stability and growth, at the same time."

Nowadays the economic ministers compare themselves to someone living on "borrowed time" for this reason: when the local elections are held sooner or later, approximately 5 trillion won will be added to the volume of currency in circulation; when this happens, it will further aggravate the otherwise unstable price situation, and this makes a sweeping reshuffle of economic ministers a certainty.

No wonder the economic ministers grumble, "it is killing us."

Cambodia

Interview With Hor Namhong on Peace Process

BK1803073491 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0445 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Mar (SPK)—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong reaffirmed the cogency of the State of Cambodia's policy in the peace process that would put an end to the conflict and promote national reconciliation.

Following are questions and answers of the interview that the minister has just accorded exclusively to SPK:

Question: Mister Minister, can you confirm some foreign reports about the offensives of our armed forces in northwestern Cambodia?

Answer: As ever, we only defend ourselves to ensure the life and security of the population and protect our positions against the incessant attacks of the enemy.

Everybody knows that for the past few months, the combined forces of the tripartite coalition of the Khmer Rouge, Sihanoukists, and Sonsannians have launched in these regions large-scale offensives with the use for the first time of several tank units and 155-mm and 130-mm heavy artillery pieces against our positions, such as in the case of Svay Chek where 5,000 shells were fired on 6 December 1990, and that of our F4 Position in Battambang which was hit by as many as 8,000 enemy shells on 21 January.

In other areas, the enemy has implemented its usual scorched-earth policy, such as in Battambang on 10 February when 62 130-mm shells were fired at a market, killing 13 persons, wounding more than 100 others, and destroying 93 houses. At Dang Tong (Kampot) some 100 houses belonging to the population were torched by the enemy. The same thing happened to the market and hospital of this district.

In brief, I repeat that the forces of the tripartite coalition—Khmer Rouge, Sihanoukists, and Sonsannians—seek at all costs through their offensives to gain more territory and population. As for us, I also would like to repeat that we only defend our positions and the life and security of the population.

It should be stressed that Sihanouk's and Son Sann's troops have been closely coordinating actions with the Khmer Rouge in their offensives.

Question: Does the State of Cambodia's Government accept a halt in the fighting?

Answer: Sure. This is why we have on many occasions proposed a voluntary cease-fire to stop the shedding of Cambodian blood and to create an atmosphere favorable to the search for a political solution and national reconciliation. Once more, I call on the other side to accept a voluntary cease-fire as soon as possible to promote the search for peace and national reconciliation.

Question: And the foreign military aid?

Answer: The pledge of the countries which have supplied military materiel to all Cambodian factions to stop this aid, of the adjoining countries to ban the transit of this aid through their territory, and of the Cambodian factions to refrain from ever again accepting military aid is a fundamental factor promoting the final political solution.

All parties concerned should accept such a commitment so that the road toward peace be shortened. As for us, we are ready to do so.

Question: What do you say about reports, again coming from foreign sources, that the State of Cambodia rejects the UN peace plan?

Answer: These reports [words indistinct], if not malevolent, are at least erroneous.

During its extraordinary session from 28 February to 1 March 1991, our National Assembly clearly confirmed that the State of Cambodia accepts the majority of the fundamental points in the draft agreement prepared by the "Big Five" and the cochairmen of the Paris international conference on Cambodia.

We only wish that concrete measures be provided to prevent the genocidal regime's return to power because, now more than ever, the threat of the genocidal regime's return is very much real, present, and serious.

The political and military status quo until the end of the elections that we have recommended actually constitutes one of these concrete measures. There are others to be taken so that the Cambodian people would not become victims of genocide again. This is because we must never forget the special characteristic of the Cambodian problem, which is a problem of genocide. Therefore, any political solution should take that into account.

As for the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and the UN Charter that the National Assembly has dealt with, I think no one should question that. It is an immutable principle of the UN Charter and the international right.

Heng Samrin Appeals for Support of Peace Process

BK1703071691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Speech by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, at ceremony to inaugurate secondary and primary schools in Preah Sdach District, Prey Veng Province, on 15 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Recently, our National Assembly convened an extraordinary session to discuss in depth every issue relating to the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem and highly agreed on a principled stance and view concerning a reasonable and just political solution to the Cambodian problem.

1. A comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem should have concrete measures to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

2. The political and military status quo should be maintained until the establishment of a new government through free and proper elections.

3. The important role of the United Nations in a solution to the Cambodian problem should be in accordance with the UN Charter and the principle of respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. The role of the United Nations in a solution to the Cambodian problem should be defined by the Supreme National Council, which represents Cambodia's sovereignty.

On this occasion, I would like to appeal to the other Cambodian side to show genuine goodwill in the search for a political solution; end hostile activities against its own nation; and hurriedly go to the negotiating table in order to continue reconciliatory talks sincerely and constructively on the essential points of the draft agreement aimed at quickly ending the national conflict and bringing genuine peace to the motherland and the people. If an agreement can be reached on a cease-fire, end to foreign military aid, repatriation of refugees, or the construction of Cambodian infrastructure before a political solution, this would be even better in the interests of the people and the motherland as well as in the cause of peace in Cambodia.

I would like to appeal to compatriots living abroad and in refugee camps on Thai territory to strive to contribute to supporting the State of Cambodia's stance in the search for peace for the nation and country. In particular, compatriots who are in the ranks of the other Cambodian side, please realize and consider national interests first and stop using arms to cause destruction among your own people. Please quickly return to the nation and society and contribute to building and developing the country and bringing happiness.

From this podium, I would like to express congratulations to the international community for actively contributing to the search for a just and durable political solution to bring peace to the Cambodian people as well as contributing to the safeguarding of peace and stability in the region. I appeal to the international community to provide assistance and support to the the five-point appeal made by Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, on 7 March 1991 on the convening of a meeting of the Supreme National Council, voluntary cease-fire, end to military aid, end to the transport of weapons and war materiel to Cambodia, and dispatch of fact-finding missions to refugee camps in zones under the other side's control in case it can assist in quickly bringing a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. [applause]

Daily: Resistance Meeting 'Deceitful Goodwill'

BK1803034291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Mar 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "The 'Goodwill' Game"]

[Text] Recently, the other Cambodian factions in the genocidal alliance, including Sihanouk, Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, and Ranariddh, held a surprise meeting for three days from 12 to 14 March in Beijing in accordance with their so-called aim to solve the situation in Cambodia.

But in fact, the content of the statement issued at the end of this meeting clearly reflects their stance which, as has been all along, does not help to expedite the political solution.

Everything that the other Cambodian factions in the tripartite alliance announced in Beijing was just a game of deceitful goodwill.

They once again reiterated their stance in fully accepting the 26 November 1990 draft agreement of the big five and called on the State of Cambodia side to do likewise.

As a matter of fact, they do know about all the essential points on which the State of Cambodia side has called for further discussion. The fact that they have continued turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to this matter has once again clearly reflected their real aim in rejecting the possibility for a political solution. They have not mentioned the essential points needed to be resolved instantaneously in order to pave the way for peace to quickly return to Cambodia, such as the cease-fire, cessation of foreign military aid to the Cambodian factions, and the convening of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

Verbally, they have clamored about peace. But in deeds, they have kept kindling the flames of war inside the country and committing more destructive acts along the border and outlying areas. Such activities have seriously hindered the process for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Now more than ever before, it is time to realize that to achieve genuine peace and resolve the problem accurately, it is necessary to continue making efforts for the noble interests of the Cambodian people, primarily to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and to ensure the preservation of the Cambodian people's national independence and sovereignty and their right to self-determination.

It can be said that the process toward a Cambodian solution has reached its final stage. In this stage, the remaining basic points are the internal issues of Cambodia which should be settled through the urgent meeting of the SNC without any foreign interference, thus paving the way for the reconvening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. It is also an appropriate time for all countries concerned with the

Cambodian problem to join in implementing the U.S.-USSR initiative dated 23 September 1989 concerning the cessation of military aid to the Cambodian factions.

We welcome the initiatives by Vietnam and Laos in calling on countries bordering the State of Cambodia to pledge not to allow foreign countries to transport weaponry to Cambodia through their territories.

We think that if this pledge is turned into an agreement under UN supervision, it would be an important starting point for peace in Cambodia.

We would like to stress once again that all attempts to topple the State of Cambodia Government are certainly futureless.

UN Official on Convening Peace Talks in Jakarta

BK1503124891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Singapore, March 15 (AFP)—France and Indonesia are to convene another meeting with the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) before the end of April, a United Nations official said here Friday.

Rafiuddin Ahmad, the U.N. special representative for humanitarian affairs in Southeast Asia, said the meeting would be held in Jakarta.

Paris and Jakarta chair the Paris International Conference on Cambodia set up to solve the Cambodian issue. The SNC is made up of 12 representatives from the various Cambodian factions.

Mr. Ahmed, speaking at a symposium on "the changing role of the United Nations in conflict, resolution and peacekeeping", said that a team made up of representatives of the United Nations and the two co-chairmen would visit Phnom Penh and Hanoi in the next few weeks for talks. He was confident that progress could be made on a settlement of the Cambodian issue, as all sides were keen on this.

The SNC was set up with the help of the United Nations to get the various factions to agree on free and fair elections under the supervision of the world body, but so far it has resolved little.

The factions in the SNC are the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh and the Cambodian resistance coalition led by former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

Chea Sim Meets With Indian Charge D'Affaires

BK1503133191 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1116 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 15 Mar (SPK)—"We always support all efforts for a sincere outcome that would put an end to the war in Cambodia," stressed National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim when he received Mr. Rinqzing Wangdi, Indian charge d'affaires to Cambodia, in Phnom Penh on Thursday 14 March.

Chea Sim, who is also a member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, however, added: "We will never accept any solution that does not mention measures destined to prevent the recurrence of the genocidal regime."

He reiterated the State of Cambodia's principled stance of maintaining the political and military status quo until the end of the elections, while specifying that disarmament would make it easy for the Khmer Rouge Polpotists to return to power through military means.

"In case of the absence of a political solution, we will organize unilateral elections in 1992," said Chea Sim before adding that such elections would not mean "a throwback of the settlement to the Cambodian problem, for the already-twice-extended term of our National Assembly will expire and it is imperative for us to elect members of parliament for a new term."

The Cambodian leader recalled the noble gesture of friendship made by the Indian government in providing Cambodia with plants and seeds of the sacred pipal tree, and deeply thanked the Indian government for its timely support to the just cause of the Cambodian people, particularly for its active participation in forums on the settlement of the Cambodian problem.

For his part, the Indian diplomat stressed the steady development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between India and Cambodia, relations which, according to him, always remain firm despite the political changes in India.

He expressed his optimism [words indistinct].

Australian Diplomat Arrives To Discuss Solution

BK1603054291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0448 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 16—An Australian Foreign Ministry delegation led by Michael John Costello, deputy secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, arrived here Saturday [16 March] for a three-day visit to Cambodia.

The delegation was welcomed at Pochentong Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An and other officials.

While here, Mr. Michael Costello will have talks with Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on moves to speed up a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Phnom Penh Troop Offensive in Thmar Puok

BK1603015791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Phnom Penh government's troops backed by artillery and tanks have pushed within 13 kilometres of a key guerrilla stronghold in western Cambodia, a guerrilla spokesman said yesterday.

Since dawn last Saturday, about 6,000 Phnom Penh's troops have been attacking Thmar Puok, the centre of the zone controlled by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said Ok Seri Sopheak, a spokesman for the front. About 7,000-8,000 guerrillas are defending the area, he said.

The guerrillas on Thursday retook two or three important defence posts, or half of those lost to the government offensive, he said.

"We are about to re-establish our forward defence lines. ...But the situation on all fronts is still very tense. Their intention is to move very quickly to regain Thmar Puok", he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

About 100 refugees from an embattled village near Thmar Puok arived at the UN-aided refugee camp Site 2 just inside Thailand on Tuesday night, a Western relief official who demanded anonymity said yesterday.

Another source earlier quoted guerrilla battlefield reports saying that the government offensive had been beaten back on Thursday, but Ok Serei Sopheak could not confirm this.

Another guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, repulsed a heavy government offensive near the Khmer Rouge-held gem-mining town of Pailin south of Thmar Puok, according to the source and the Khmer Rouge army radio.

The guerrillas seized Pailin and Thmar Puok shortly after Vietnam made what it said was a complete troop pullout from Cambodia in September 1989.

The latest government counterattacks on the two towns brought the fiercest fighting in the western part of the country since the dry season began late last year, guerrilla officials said.

Ok Serei Sopheak said the government forces were raining 122-mm artillery and B-21 multiple rocket launchers on Thmar Puok. They shelled sporadically throughout the day each day "to keep us very busy," he said.

He said five guerrillas had been killed and less than 20 wounded, and that initial reports indicated two civilians in the town died in shelling Thursday.

He did not know the government casualties, but said 20 government soldiers were captured.

The government was using 15 T-54 tanks in the assault, he said.

Before the latest offensive, government forces were about 25 kilometres from Thmar Puok, he said. Without anti-tank weapons, the guerrillas were effectively surrounding the tanks and cutting off their gasoline supply line, he said.

Thmar Puok is about 20 kilometres from the Thai border.

The United States has built hospitals, schools and given other aid for development of the guerrilla zone centred at Thmar Puok. Ok Serei Sopheak said tractors and other US-donated equipment had been evacuated toward the border away from the shelling.

The guerrillas said Vietnamese trops participated in the attacks on both Thmar Puok and Pailin, despite Vietnam's claim that only some military advisors remained in the country.

The Khmer Rouge resistance group shelled the province capital of Sisophon, killing or wounding dozens of people in apparent retaliation for Phnom Penh's offensive, a Thai military told UPI yesterday

"At 10:00 a.m. on March 14, the Khmer Rouge fired with artillery pieces and rocket launchers into Sisophon. The shelling killed more than 20 people and wounded many others", said a Thai military officer at the border.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, said many people were evacuated from Sisophon, 40 km from Thailand's border district of Aranyaprathet.

He said the civilians moved about 10 km to the north and 36 km to the south because of fears that the Khmer Rouge would resume the shelling.

"The Khmer Rouge fired into Sisophon again this morning from a base which is only 10 km from the town," he said.

The officer said the shelling may have been retaliation for attacks by about 4,000 government troops backed by tanks earlier on Thursday against bases of the Khmer Roge and the allied resistance group, the KPNLF.

The fighting forced about 1,500 KPNLF soldiers to retreat to the Thai border, giving up four bases, he said.

The officer said government troops seized three villages controlled by Khmer Rouge near the Thai-Cambodian border.

He said there was no immediate reports of KPNLF casualties.

Cambodian Resistance Leaders Assemble in Beijing

HK1203141491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Beijing, March 12 (AFP)—Leaders of Cambodia's resistance factions assembled here Tuesday to confer on the country's lingering civil war as the visiting U.S. and Soviet deputy foreign ministers met on ways to jump-start the peace process.

"We are trying to bridge differences and bring the process to a conclusion," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said.

He was speaking at the end of a two-day visit marked by a flurry of diplomatic activity among key players in the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict—the resistance, China, the United States, the Soviet Union and France.

Leaders of Cambodia's three resistance factions arrived here Tuesday from Thailand for a three-day conference, but declined to disclose their agenda.

"We have come to talk to the prince and to seek peace in Cambodia," former Cambodian Prime Minister Son Sann said at Beijing's capital airport, referring to resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who lives in exile in Beijing.

Mr. Son Sann was accompanied by faction leaders Khieu Samphan, chief of the powerful Khmer Rouge, and by the former monarch's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

They were met by the Chinese Foreign Ministry's top Asian affairs officer, Xu Dunxin, who held three hours of talks with Mr. Solomon earlier in the day.

In Tokyo meanwhile, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tadashi Ikeda, an advisor at the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, would visit Beijing to take part in the meeting of resistance leaders.

Mr. Solomon said he met Monday with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, who was also on a visit here, after hearing that the Soviet was to go to Cambodia for talks.

The Soviet Embassy declined to say whether Mr. Rogachev had scheduled other talks on Cambodia while in Beijing.

The two men had "extensive discussions" on "ways to bridge differences," said Mr. Solomon, who had separate meetings here with Prince Sihanouk, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu and French Ambassador to China Claude Martin.

"A number of steps" remained in implementing a U.N.-brokered peace plan calling for disarming all warring parties, a stop to all outside military aid and U.N. administration of Cambodia until elections are held, he said. [passage omitted]

Mr. Solomon left here for Japan and was also due to visit Indonesia and Thailand.

As diplomacy continued, reports of fresh fighting in Cambodia emerged from Bangkok.

Phnom Penh troops had used tanks and other heavy weapons since Sunday to attack the district of Puok, said Chhay Khm Hour, assistant secretary general of Mr. Son Sann's faction, the Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF).

The district is controlled by the KPNLF and has a civilian population estimated at 8,000.

Guerrilla forces of all three resistance factions were defending the area in the most serious outbreak of fighting in the current dry season, he said.

VOK on Beijing Meeting, Japanese Proposal

BK1603074491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Leaders of the tripartite Cambodian resistance forces ended a three-day meeting in Beijing yesterday after agreeing on and discussing a Japanese initiative in connection with a guarantee on the dissolution of armed forces of all Cambodian parties and free elections in Cambodia under UN supervision.

Japanese special envoy Tadasi Ikeda last Thursday discussed in Beijing the Japanese proposal with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] President His Excellency Son Sann; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia; and Khieu Samphan, leader of the Democratic Kampuchea side.

Yoshi Komamaro, spokesman of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, said the Japanese proposal deals with the disarming of all warring Cambodian parties and measures to prevent the return to power of the genocidal regime like in the period 1975-1979. This Japanese proposal covers the important point which Vietnam and the Vietnam-installed communist regime in Phnom Penh have seized on to oppose and reject the UN peace plan. Komamaro refused to reveal details of the Japanese proposal presented by Ikeda at the meeting with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and leaders of the tripartite Cambodian resistance movement. Komamaro said the three Cambodian sides have promised to examine and discuss Tokyo's proposal. This Japanese spokesman said the initiative taken by Japan is to provide further assurance to each Cambodian party on the process of disarming the armed forces of all Cambodian sides.

Tadasi Ikeda, special envoy in Bangkok of the Japanese Government, yesterday held talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev on the Japanese proposal and later met with Xu Dunxin, head of the Chinese team negotiating the Cambodian problem. Komamaro said Rogachev, who is expected to visit Phnom Penh soon, said to Ikeda that Moscow will consider the Japanese proposal.

Reliable sources in Bangkok say that in the Japanese proposal, the UN transitional authority will oversee every activity to be carried out concerning the armed forces of all parties as stated in the peace plan, including a cease-fire, troop cantonment, a search for arms believed to be hidden, the disarming of all Cambodian parties, and dissolution of all Cambodian parties' armed forces. These sources say that in an attempt to eliminate Phnom Penh's concern over the Khmer Rouge issue, Japan has also proposed that a committee be set up to investigate reports on human rights in the period the Khmer Rouge were in power from 1975 to 1979. These sources also say that Japan has asked that this special committee comprise representatives from Cambodian parties, the UN transitional authority, and the Human Rights Commission based in Geneva.

Leaders of the three Cambodian parties arrived in Bangkok from China yesterday [15 March] evening.

VODK: Workers Oppose Election Scheme

BK1803015291 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Mar 91

["News commentary": "The Fraternal Workers in Phnom Penh City Jointly Oppose the Election Plan of the Vietnamese Aggressors and the Traitorous Puppets Who Are Vietnamese Lackeys"]

[Summary] Between 1 and 5 March, the fraternal workers in Phnom Penh City, such as factory and port workers and pedicab drivers, dividing themselves into small groups, launched demonstration and distributed leaflets opposing the election plan of the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppet ringleaders who are Vietnamese lackeys.

The fraternal workers in Phnom Penh are very angry with this election plan because they know well that the traitorous puppet regime in Phnom Penh does not have any rights or power. All state affairs from top to grassroots levels are controlled and managed by the Vietnamese aggressors. The Phnom Penh puppets do everything at the order of their Vietnamese bosses.

This deceitful election farce is just a scheme to enable the Hanoi authorities to continue occupying Cambodia.

The fraternal workers in Phnom Penh pledged to join hands with the guerrillas of the resistance forces in the fight to smash the Vietnamese-puppet election scheme and to continue struggling until Phnom Penh and the entire Cambodian territory are totally liberated.

Radio Voices Full Support for Communique

BK1703043891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Station editorial: "The Cambodian People and the Cambodian National Resistance Enthusiastically Welcome and Support the Beijing 13 March Communique of the Cambodian National Resistance Leaders and Continue to Uphold the Documents of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and the United Nations"]

[Text] Under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian president and leader of the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR], the three leaders of the National Government of Cambodia [NGC] and the CNR—His Excellency Son Sann, prime minister of the NGC; His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs; and Prince Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia—held an important meeting in Beijing on 13 March. The leaders of the NGC and CNR unanimously agreed on all the issues raised at the meeting. The leaders also reaffirmed their total support for the 28 August 1990 framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the Jakarta 10 September 1990 joint statement, the resolution 668/90 of the UNSC, the 26 November 1990 draft agreement, and the Paris 23 December 1990 joint statement.

The leaders of the NGC and CNR appealed to all the parties concerned to accept the aforementioned documents, in particular the resolution 668/90 adopted by the UNSC with the aim of expediting the settlement of the Cambodian problem via a political solution in keeping with the earnest aspiration of the Cambodian people.

The communique released by the leaders of the NGC and CNR represents the common stance and intention of the Cambodian national resistance forces, the Cambodian patriots, and the entire Cambodian people from all walks of life and political leanings outside and inside the country, who are eager to solve the Cambodian problem at an earlier date in conformity with the UN documents, especially the 26 August 1990 framework blueprint and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement. Those documents are the most rational means to definitely close the books on the over-12-year Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia via a comprehensive political solution, because the documents:

1. Demand Vietnam withdraw all its troops and aggressor forces from Cambodia under strict control and supervision of the United Nations.

2. Requires the establishment of the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. The SNC is the unique representative and source of authority in Cambodia to cooperate with a UN transitional authority [UNTAC] in organizing free elections in Cambodia.

3. Requires the dispatch of the UNTAC and a UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia to implement the agreement on an overall settlement, specifically to verify the Vietnamese withdrawal and to organize free and just elections in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people and the CNR fully support the aforementioned joint communique of the leaders of the NGC and CNR and are resolved to uphold the great national union banner together without making discrimination against their political colors—white, black, blue, or red. They will more vigorously and actively carry on all forms of fightings against the Vietnamese aggressors until the Cambodian problem is settled via a comprehensive political solution in compliance with all the documents of the United Nations, in particular the framework blueprint dated 28 August 1990 and the draft agreement dated 26 November 1990.

Moreover, the Cambodian people and the CNR wish to call on the international community, especially the five UNSC permanent members to use their authority to press Vietnam into completely implementing the UNSC resolution 668/90 on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem and to prevent them from destroying or avoiding it.

Indonesia

Ali Alatas, Solomon Discuss Cambodian Solution

BK1703045891 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, believe that existing differences in efforts to settle the Cambodian conflict can be abridged and a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council can be immediately convened. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas disclosed this to newsmen after he and Richard Solomon discussed efforts to settle the Cambodian conflict in Jakarta yesterday. According to Minister Ali Alatas, the United States agreed with Indonesia that the current momentum toward a comprehensive settlement within the framework of the Paris confernce on Cambodia should not be lost.

Speaking in reply to questions from newsmen on obstacles to the settlement of the Cambodian conflict, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said there were different views on the militarization issue in Cambodia. However, he was confident that the different views on this matter could be overcome.

Suharto Wants SRV, Laos, Burma To Join ASEAN

BK1603140791 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Mar 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—President Suharto hopes that Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar [Burma] will eventually join ASEAN. The president expressed his hope when he received a courtesy call from a Malaysian women delegation at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace on Thursday. "Let us hope they will finally join ASEAN," said the president.

The head of state reiterated that since its inception 24 years ago, ASEAN has worked toward turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality, not through the establishment of a military or political pact, but through the national stability and resilience of each member country.

"From the beginning, ASEAN nations have been convinced that the political, economic, social, cultural, and military stability of each member country will lead to the stability of Southeast Asia."

To further promote cooperation among fellow ASEAN countries, President Suharto also called for cooperation between Indonesian and Malaysian women associations. [passage omitted]

Suharto Meets PRC Aeronautics Minister 16 Mar

BK1603091891 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Speaking to newsmen after calling on President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta this afternoon, Lin Zongtang, PRC minister of aeronautics and astronautics, said the PRC wanted to enhance cooperation with Indonesia in the space industry. Similarly, this cooperation is expected to lead to future cooperation in industries using high and sophisticated technology. In this regard, the PRC Government has invited Habibie, state minister for research and technology, to visit that country to explore possible priority areas for cooperation.

The PRC minister of aeronautics and astronautics, who is on a week-long working visit to Indonesia, has visited the Nusantara Aircraft Corporation and the Inti Company Limited [telecommunications equipment manufacturers] in Bandung as well as the Borobudur Temple in Central Java and other tourist spots in Bali.

Military Chief Assures No 'Thai-Style Coup'

BK1603044991 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 8 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Jakarta, BUANA—A Thai-style coup will never happen in Indonesia because there is no civilian-military dichotomy in Indonesia unlike in countries such as Thailand which adopt liberalism. Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno made the remarks in a lecture at the sixth national congress of the Federation of Indonesian Self-Reliant Workers Organizations [SOKSI] at the Pondok Gede Pilgrimage Center in Jakarta on Thursday.

According to the Armed Forces commander, the civilian-military dichotomy in Indonesia is solely in terms of profession. Indonesia does not recognize such a differentiation in the political context. The Armed Forces commander said this exists in the liberal system in which the military is a tool of the civilians.

Under this system, the military can do nothing but stage a coup if there is instability in a country. "It is impossible for us to do this here because it is against the spirit of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] as a fighter," the Armed Forces commander said. His remarks were warmly applauded by the delegates.

According to the Armed Forces commander, the civilian-military dichotomy does not exist in Indonesia because of the Pancasila values. By adopting these values, the civilians and military live in one family.

According to Try, a fighter is consistently oriented to public interests. ABRI, which identifies itself as a fighter, has dual functions. Even the non-ABRI citizens have dual functions in accordance with Article 30 of the 1945 Constitution. "In the event of war, everybody will stand up to defend the country," he said in the dialogue with the SOKSI cadres.

The Armed Forces commander called on the people to have dialogues and broaden their vision by filtering incoming information. According to Try, Indonesia as a nation is required to possess true national colors during the current era of globalization. "Clearly red and white; not vague," he stressed.

On the occasion, the Armed Forces commander presented a paper entitled "ABRI's Partnership With SOKSI Within the Framework of the Continuity of the National Leadership in the Nineties."

According to the Armed Forces commander, we should not be influenced and tempted to fully use an external criterion to assess our national and state life because the situation in Indonesia is clearly very much different from that in another country.

The imposition of an external criterion will produce an unobjective assessment which will not serve as an appropriate feedback to enhance the future process of our national and state life.

Try Sutrisno said there is no majority domination, minority tyranny, totalitarianism, or dictatorship under the Pancasila democracy. Neither is there any imposition of will. "No, let alone the use of force," he said before about 1,500 SOKSI cadres. He said: We always try to resolve every national problem by consensus through consultations under the spirit of kinship, togetherness, and mutual assistance. Accordingly, the Republic of Indonesia does not recognize the civilian supremacy over the military or vice versa because the Indonesians do not like dichotomous or antagositc categorizations.

The Armed Forces commander also explained ABRI's sociopolitical role, including its role in stabilizing and dynamizing national life. The term "stabilizing and dynamizing" should not be separated because the two words have a close functional relationship and are complementary.

The stabilizing role means to check any excessess of a dynamic life.

Bank Governor on Factors Leading to Inflation

BK1503115291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1013 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 15 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Central Bank Governor, Adrianus Mooy has stated here that factors leading to inflation in the last two months had not fully receded.

Speaking before the annual bankers dinner here on Thursday night, the Bank Indonesia chief further said that such factors needed to be coped with in order to prevent negative impact on the productive economic activities and on the balance of payment.

In this connection, he went on, the government had consistently strived to control the inflation rate to a proper level by introducing tight money policy to control the money in circulation and to preserve the availability of the basic needs as well as to maintain the flow of their distribution.

However, he said the amount of money in circulation during the month of February was still high enough which also posed a pressure against the inflation and encouraged speculators who bought up U.S. dollar currencies.

To reduce the money in circulation, the government on February decided to withdraw deposits of a number of state-owned companies from the state and private banks and converted into the Bank Indonesia Certificates (SBIS).

At the same time, he went on, the Central Bank also purchased financial instruments (SBPU) from the concerned banks and other commercial banks in order to help them to meet their need of funds.

The dinner usually took place in January but due to tight schedules of the bankers, the event was only held on Thursday night.

Laos

Kaysone Attends Khammouane Party Congress

BK1603084991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] The fourth congress of the party committee of Khammouane Province was opened on 14 March with the participation of Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan as honored guest.

Attending the congress were 131 full delegates, nine delegates from all socioeconomic services representing all 2,701 party members in the entire province, and 50 representatives of patriotic intellectuals, heroic combatants, emulation combatants, and senior party members.

During the four-day congress, the delegates are expected to jointly review the implementation of the various resolutions previously adopted by the party and the fulfllment of the orientation of the plans outlined for the province in recent years. At the same time, they will also make allround assessment and comments on some strong points, which deserve further enhancement and certain weak points and remaining shortcomings which must be urgently rectified. They will draw certain fundamental and needed lessons with a view to continuing to develop the province along the specified direction, modifying the new socioeconomic management mechanism, and attentively forging new views and new efficient working patterns.

The congress will study and adopt the orientation of the future socioeconomic development plan of the province in conformity with its realities and new changes currently taking place throughout the country. After that, a new party committee will be elected and its delegates selected to attend the forthcoming third party congress.

Over the past more than five years since the third congress of the party committee of this province was convened, the multiethnic people in the province have energetically and persistently implemented the instructions and resolutions adopted by the party and the decrees, regulations, and laws enacted by the state.

Walking along the majestic and heroic path and under the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the party Central Committee, the party committee of Khammouane Province has directly led the people to overcome all difficulties and trials and to score great victories in various fields, thereby gradually fulfilling the tasks of defending and building their own localities.

Kaysone Addresses Conference

BK1803095791 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 18 (KPL)—The second day of the fourth conference of cadres of central Khammouane Province, March 15, 1991, General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], addressed the participants.

The LPRP CC's general secretary expressed congratulations to the ethnic people of all strata, party members, state officials and soldiers of Khammouane for their active contribution to the enhancement of heroic tradition and acclaimed their unity in overcoming all difficulties and obstacles, many-sided great achievements over the past years.

Kaysone Phomvihan pointed out the significance of the continued building and promotion of people's democratic regime. According to the old perception, it implied the state of direct socialist building without developed capitalism period. Such an idea was a subjective one and an attempt of giving rash definition disregarding the country's socioeconomic reality. The new way of thinking indicates that socialist building needs evolve many lengthy transitional steps. Each step must correspond to the reality and the starting point of the country. Under the people's democratic regime, the economy is held to be in the hands of the people and the family's economy is regarded as the major economic unit of the national economy. All economic sectors are to be promoted. The state economic sector is to be restructured and some of the areas and products vital to the national economy will be preserved.

He called for the Khammouane residents' unity under their provincial party committee, and for the promotion of all economic sectors in contribution to the development of the province, the transformation of subsistent and semi-subsistent economy to the one of commodity production. He also urged to upgrade people's living standard, to modify the administration to be of and for people, to activate the mass organisations, and to strengthen the national defence, security and social order.

In order to tap the province's potentials, the LPRP CC's general secretary recommended the local administration to strongly promote animal husbandry by families, especially cattle. Forestry work should receive special attention and forestry resources should be used for its utmost value. Small-scaled industries should be expanded for the processing of agricultural produce. Traditional handicraft is also worth promoting. The educational, public health, and sociocultural work should be qualified for better quality.

He also touched upon the strengthening of the operation of the provincial party committee to be in line with the principle of democratic centralism.

Concerning the personnel management and training, it is necessary to have a new way of thinking in the selection, placement and assessment of personnel and party members. It is necessary to do away with the old perception which mainly gave priority to the persons' social classes, outer behaviour regardless of their capacity and sense of responsibility. Young experienced and able personnel should be chosen to be the successors of revolutionary cause.

In the end, General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan suggested the conference to carefully elect a new board of the provincial party committee to lead the development in Khammouane Province as well as a contribution to building Laos [into] a country of peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity.

Phoumi Vongvichit Criticizes Cultural Work

BK1603080091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Yesterday morning in Vientiane, Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, was a guest lecturer at a meeting of cadres engaging in information and cultural work. In his lecture, Phoumi Vongvichit gave his assessment of the activities carried out in information and cultural work in the past as well as at present, saying that the execution of this task did not make tangible progress and failed to conform to the new culture which is characterized by nationalistic, scientific, progressive, and mass features. As a result, the outcome of this work has been inconsistent because its execution has been carried out according to individual whims and in defiance of the guidelines given by the party in each period, especially during the new period of rehabilitation and consolidation of the people's democratic regime.

The acting president also gave advice on the contents of literary composition and writings in information and cultural work, urging all cadres to appreciate and firmly grasp the party's line and policies, steadfastly adhere to the revolutionary ideals, and clearly and profoundly understand and analyze issues concerned so as to avoid making mistakes which may create adverse effects later.

Somlat Chanthamat Addresses Vientiane Cadres

BK1603100091 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 16 (KPL)—Mr. Somlat Chathamat, member of the Secretariat of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], on

March 14 talked to the second conference of cadres of Vientiane Province held on March 11-13, 1991.

Mr. S. Chanthamat, on behalf of the LPRP CC's [Central Committee's] Secretariat, acclaimed the participants' contribution to the success of this conference. Though he described the achievement and victory of Vientiane Province over the past five years as considerable, he said it was not up to the demand of cadres and local resident. On average in 1990, a person received 400 kgs [kilograms] of paddy only, which was just sufficient for self-consumption. If slash-and-burn cultivation, which ravages more than 20,000 hectares of forest each year, still proceeds in this manner, it would drag Vientiane Province into difficulties and cause serious damage to environment. The introduction of special allowances to the services of education and public health is still not satisfactory. Considerable financial deficit was still registered.

While the entire Army, people are devoting their effort to the coming Fifth LPRP's Congress, conferences of cadres are being held across the country. This movement would serve as a forum for constructive self- and mutual criticism, boost the campaigns of agricultural and commodities production and the campaigns of infrastructure development at grass roots, and strengthen security and national defence forces, he went on.

The conference wound up with the voting for 11 delegates to the forthcoming LPRP's Fifth Congress.

Border Demarcation With China Underway

BK1603101691 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 16 (OANA-KPL)—Lao and Chinese technical teams are working hand-in-hand to demarcate more than 400 kilometres of common border between the two countries from the black river to the Mekong, stated Mr. Chareun Varinthasak, chief of the Lao technical team for the border demarcation.

This is in accordance with the documents signed in Vientiane and in Beijing last year by governmental delegations of both sides. The demarcation of the border line will use modern techniques and will be based on the French-Chinese Convention on Border signed in 1895.

The technical teams of both sides were set up in order to carry out works on the demarcation of Sino-Lao border and on the preparation of a map on 1/100,000 scale.

Laos and China share a common border of more than 400 kilometres from the black river to the Mekong.

Three Lao provinces—Phong Saly, Oudomsai, and Luang Namtha—share common border with the Chinese Province of Yunnan.

Air Transport Agreement Signed With Burma

BK1703100691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] An air transport agreement between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Union of Myanmar [Burma] was signed on 12 March at Rangoon airport by the heads of the civil aviation departments of the two countries. The agreement, the first ever signed between the two countries, lays the foundation for the Vientiane-Rangoon flight scheduled to be inaugurated by the end of this year and marks the opening of a new era of relations and cooperation between the two countries. Four regular flights are currently operating from Vientiane to Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, and Bangkok.

Philippines

Officials Fear Murder Plot Against Imelda Marcos

BK1703113091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Manila, March 17 (AFP)—Philippine officials fear an assassination attempt on former first lady Imelda Marcos if she is allowed to return home, and are ready to provide her with security, press reports said here Sunday.

Newspapers quoted President Corazon Aquino's national security adviser, Rafael Ileto, as saying unidentified groups may be out to harm the once powerful and still wealthy widow of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"If something happens to her, it will be our responsibility," he reportedly said. "Some groups may want to embarrass the government."

Meanwhile, some 200 supporters demanding Mrs. Marcos's return staged a rally at a central square here Sunday, police said. "They said they loved Imelda and they want her to come home," a police officer said after the rally ended without incident.

Pressure has been mounting on the government to allow Mrs. Marcos and other family members to return home five years after a popular revolt sent them to exile in the United States and put Mrs. Aquino in the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

The MANILA TIMES reported Sunday that Justice Secretary Franklin was concerned that Manila might not have an airtight case against Mrs. Marcos. He was quoted as saying in an interview that if the special commission tasked with recovering the Marcos wealth could not guarantee a conviction, the government might as well forego its claim to the Swiss deposits "for the sake of national security."

The Marcoses' three grown children, other close relatives and aides as well as their families joined them in exile, and are scattered across the world.

Armed Forces Chief Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon said last Friday that Mrs. Marcos had ceased to be a security threat to the Philippines.

Government To Deny Passport to Imelda Marcos

HK1803103091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Manila, March 18 (AFP) - The Philippine Government will reject an expected passport application from exiled former first lady Imelda Marcos, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Monday.

"She will not get a passport. That's final. That was the order from Malacanang (presidential palace)," he said amid reports that Mrs. Marcos would file the application shortly at the Philippine Consulate in New York. He did not say whether the ban would be indefinite.

Mrs. Marcos, 61, fled to exile with her husband, deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, when a popular revolt installed President Corazon Aquino's government in 1986. Mr. Marcos died in Hawaii in 1989.

Mrs. Aquino, citing national security, has indefinitely barred the Marcos family from returning home, linking them to plots to topple her and accusing them of plundering the Philippines during their 20-year rule.

Earlier, Mrs. Aquino issued a statement saying that the government was still studying when Mrs. Marcos's return "could be feasible, and when would be the appropriate time." Pressure has been mounting on her to allow Mrs. Marcos to return home after five years in exile.

A Swiss court has ruled that the Philippine Government must file criminal charges and secure a conviction against Mrs. Marcos by December if it wants to be awarded ownership of an estimated 350 million dollars in secret Swiss deposits made by the Marcos couple. But a criminal case would require the presence of the accused in Manila, posing a dilemma for the Aquino government, which is burdened by a 28 billion dollar foreign debt and other problems inherited from the Marcos regime.

Mrs. Marcos has denied financing anti-Aquino plots, and was acquitted last year of charges that she stole more than 200 million dollars from the Philippines to buy buildings, jewelry and artworks in New York while in power.

The former first lady, now reputed to be one of the world's wealthiest women following her husband's death, is stuck in the United States because the Aquino government cancelled her family's passports in 1986. A new passport would allow her to return home, or move to another country.

Aquino Warns Senators on U.S. Bases Treaty

HK1803101891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Manila, March 18 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino on Monday warned senators threatening to scuttle a proposed U.S. bases treaty to "reflect the wishes of the people", and hinted she would campaign for a new agreement.

"While it is the Senate that will ratify or reject a treaty, the Senate action should reflect the wishes of the people," she said in a statement as the two countries prepared for an extra round of talks on the bases' future. "We will be engaging in a vigorous information campaign with regards to the treaty," she added.

Independent opinion surveys show that most Filipinos would approve of a continued U.S. military presence in this former colony, despite a vocal and highly influential nationalist lobby demanding the bases' removal.

Mrs. Aquino has offered a seven-year lease in exchange for 825 million dollars a year in cash, military aid and trade concessions. Washington wants 10 years, at a maximum of 520 million dollars annually. A final round of negotiations is expected to open here by early April.

More than half of the country's 23 senators have vowed to vote against a new seven-year treaty, but politicians say pressure from Mrs. Aquino could swing some senators to her side.

The Philippine Constitution requires that two-thirds of the Senate must vote for any treaty for ratification.

The Philippines hosts Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four smaller facilities which together constitute the largest American military complex overseas. The current U.S. lease on them expires in September.

Ramos Favors U.S. Access to Bases After Phaseout

HK1803091591 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday he favors a move to grant the United States access to the military bases after the proposed seven-year phaseout period.

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, meanwhile, said President Aquino's government is humiliating the Philippines by haggling over the price tag for U.S. military bases in the country.

Ramos and Cojuangco are possible presidential contenders in the 1992 elections set in May next year.

The lease on U.S. bases in the Philippines runs out in September. Manila wants $825 million a year for the next seven years, but the United States has offered only $360 million and wants a 10-year agreement. The U.S. later offered a $396-million compensation package to include food aid and military training assistance.

Ramos supported the U.S. position that the bases maintain the balance of power in the region despite the thawing of the Cold War. "I think that while we protect our national interest, we must always seek opportunities others are creating for themselves, as well as spilling over into the rest of the world. Now that is happening in the Asia and Pacific right now, but it appears that we are not yet part of it, siguromasyado tayong pakipot [maybe we are overplaying hard to get]," Ramos said.

The defense secretary also said the presence of the U.S. bases does not make a country less sovereign as he cited the cases of Japan, South Korea, Greece and Spain. He said the Philippines should realize that isolationism is a thing of the past.

"We are now in the global village and I don't think any country will prosper or remain stable or grow if the policy is always anti-this, anti-that," he said.

Addressing a political meeting in Alaminos last Thursday, Cojuangco said the government is giving the impression that the ultimate solution to the country's problem will come from the rental on the bases.

"I am ashamed of that stand," he said.

Cojuangco suggested instead asking for U.S. trade concessions and help for industry. "If we discussed trade, commerce and indsutry, we can sit across the table on more equal terms," he said.

Security Meeting Not To Affect Bases Treaty

HK1803054191 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] The scheduled regional dialog on security in Manila on June 5-7 will not affect the Philippine position on the fate of the U.S. military bases in the country, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said.

Manglapus was reacting to accusations that the Philippines was tossing the issue of the bases here to its regional partners apparently to counter domestic opposition to the bases.

Manila will host the first security dialog aimed at forming a "regional consensus" on the issue of the U.S. bases to be attended by ASEAN members.

U.S. Bases Could Cause 'Toxic Contamination'

HK1803055691 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] An agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Environmental Management Bureau [EMB], warned the government that the continued stay of the U.S. bases could be the cause of toxic contamination. Last week the EMB submitted a report to the Senate proposing a public hearing on the toxic waste disposal system at the U.S. bases. The EMB said the military bases should not be exempt from being monitored on pollution causes because they are integral parts of the Philippine Government.

Editorial Warns Against U.S. Bases 'Bargain'

HK1503053191 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "People Being Misled on Base 'Bargain'"]

[Text] Was Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus again trying to be cute when he suggested that the Philippines should allow the United States to keep its military facilities for as long as it wanted?

On Monday upon coming home from America, Manglapus was asked by reporters if he would agree to let the U.S. keep its bases for 10 more years instead of the seven that the Philippine panel offered during the fourth round of negotiations last month and President Aquino later endorsed. His response: "If that will make them (Americans) happy, why not?"

At first blush, that remark seems heavily laced with sarcasm. But Manglapus' subsequent utterances left no doubt he was dead serious.

Amplifying on his latest brainstorm, Manglapus was quoted by THE MANILA TIMES as saying: "We already are looking with favor on a proposal that there be some mention in the agreement that at a certain time before the duration ends, whatever the years may be, the Philippines may unilaterally agree to provide (the U.S.) with access beyond the stated years." To disarm critics, he said this provision will specify that any extension of the agreement will be the exclusive "prerogative" of the Philippine Government.

Sometime during his U.S. sojourn, Manglapus must have lost his bearings. It will be recalled that during the earlier stages of the negotiations, the Philippine panel insisted that the extension period must be used for the phaseout of the bases. On that premise, the talks progressed to discussions on the duration of the extension and the compensation the U.S. must pay.

Manglapus went to the United States precisely for the purpose of threshing out problems related to the compensation issue—or so he said. But instead of persuading U.S. officials to guarantee regular payment of $400 million in cash and $425 million in trade concessions and other forms of compensation, Manglapus returned home convinced that an indeterminate U.S. military presence is best for the country. As he put it: "Terminal phaseout is a many-splendored thing, but it's not mine." In other words, under a new treaty the U.S. can keep the bases till the end of eternity.

So, who cares about the real intent of the framers of the Constitution who wrote that no foreign troops should be stationed on Philippine soil, [illegible] the people who ratified it? Not Manglapus, who has been entrusted with the task of making the needed arrangements for implementing it painlessly if possible, but definitely with pride and dignity. Not Ms. Aquino who has reiterated full confidence in her foreign secretary.

For a fistful of dollars, the administration will set aside the fundamental law, the nation's dignity and independence and the people's security. And it may just give all these away even for a song.

Top U.S. officials, including Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, have already said that, except during the first year of the new treaty, they could not guarantee payment of a yearly compensation. In a similar vein, the U.S. panel earlier said the best thing it could offer was the "best efforts" of the U.S. President to get Congress to appropriate the agreed amounts from year to year.

While Manglapus has indicated this won't be good enough, he has been talking of a "remix" that would allow the U.S. to pay less in hard cash. Other administration officials have been talking of bond flotation, higher quotas for Philippine products, debt reduction, etc., to lighten the U.S. burden and make a deal palatable for the Filipino people.

By the administration's actions, the Senate, which must ratify a new treaty, and the people are forewarned that they are being duped into thinking they are getting a good bargain.

Paper on 'Mendicant Posture' Toward U.S. Bases

HK1803092391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Posture of Mendicancy Has Weakened RP [Republic of the Philippines] Stance"]

[Text] It's rather intriguing that while the captain of the Philippine negotiating team is running around in confused circles, the chief of the U.S. panel is already announcing the expected conclusion of a new agreement governing United States forces using military bases here after September 1991.

In Washington last Friday, U.S. panel chief Richard Armitage said that he expected the new RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. treaty to be signed by early April—"perhaps April 10," he added—and indicated that the lease period will be for 10 years or more.

In Manila recently, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus reported upon his return from follow-up talks in Washington that the negotiations which were supposed to end with a signing this month will require more haggling till April. He could not report on any concession that he may have won during his talks in the U.S. capital.

The uncertainty in the Foreign Secretary's statements and his continued failure to report on gains made by the Philippine panel are a sharp contrast to the cocky posture and pronouncements of Armitage.

"We (U.S. negotiators) are looking to have an initialed agreement by the end of the first week in April, perhaps April 10," Armitage told the wire service REUTERS in an interview, "I've been to Manila six times and each time we've made progress. The dynamics are in place for an agreement next month with a formal signing ceremony later."

The Philippines wants $825 million annually under a terminal seven-year lease, while the U.S. is offering only $320 million a year during a phasedown of 10 to 12 years.

As variation, there has emerged a thinking in both panels that some $300 million (U.S. figure) or $400 million (RP figure) in compensation could be made through non-cash arrangements such as trade concessions and debt reduction.

Armitage is expected to stand pat on the U.S. offer of $320 million annually through "best efforts" when he returns to Manila in early April for the resumption of the talks. His firm position and his announced expectation of a signing in early April have been translated to "take it or leave it."

It has been dismaying to see the Philippines frantically juggling compensation figures and pulling payment schemes from folders to convince the U.S. to give more dollars for the bases.

As we have said before, should not the Philippines first come up with a correct price tag (if it is mainly dollars we are after) for the bases and leave it to the U.S. to come forward with variations of how it proposes to pay the bill? Why should we think for the Americans? We should leave the worrying (about payment schemes) to them.

We seem to be more worried than the Americans over the prospects of their leaving the bases. If they need those forward bases for their regional security strategy, as we think they do, then they should pay a reasonable price for their use. Our rushing to them to beg them to please stay and pay is a national shame.

The cocky pronoucements of Armitage in Washington can be read in either of two ways: He is just firing away to soften the beach before he lands in April, or he knows something our government has kept from us, which is that the deal is done.

The confused countenance of the Philippine panel is far from reassuring at this point. In fact, the sagging face of Manglapus upon his return from his recent haggling in Washington confirmed what we earlier said—that maintaining that mendicant posture, that following Armitage to Washington with an outstretched palm only destroyed whatever bargaining chip we ever had.

How will the Manglapus panel ever recover from this setback? There is still one ray of hope—the Yankees may yet take pity on us and throw us more crumbs.

U.S. Said Using Observatory for Nuclear Purposes

HK1503125491 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] U.P. [University of the Philippines] professor and anti-base advocate Roland Simbulan revealed the United States is using the Manila Observatory in Ateneo for nuclear activities.

Simbulan based his observation on a book written by a former defense analyst of the United States Army. The analyst stated that the Manila Observatory is part of U.S. nuclear infrastucture of United States.

Simbulan criticized the Philippine base negotiating panel for allowing the continued use of the Manila Observatory by the Americans. United States Embassy Spokesman Stanley Shrager strongly denied Simbulan's accusation.

Soviet Aircraft Lease Affected by Assistance Pact

HK1803053591 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 18 Mar 91 p 12

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The Soviet offer to lease advanced jet fighter aircraft to the Philippines, and the latter's positive response to the proposal, is reverberating in security channels to Washington, DC and Kuala Lumpur.

"It's still a float at this time," was how one senior Philippine diplomat described the idea. However, recent statements by ranking military officials indicate South China Sea territorial disputes to be foremost in their minds. This is closely followed by frustration that 40-some years of alliance with the U.S. have not resulted in even a semblance of external capability.

"Of course, we are thinking of Malaysia. They have proven to be quite aggressive towards us," a senior Air Force official admitted.

"Everybody in the region is building up. Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia already have F-16s. Malaysia actually was going to get Tornadoes but seems to be settling for Hawk 200s," he observed. "All we want is to have defense self-sufficiency so that they cannot violate our borders with impunity."

In 1989, the Malaysian Navy boarded and captured three Philippine fishing vessels in what the Philippines considers its territorial waters west of Palawan. The Philippine military was powerless to stop them and the U.S. refused to interfere.

The advanced Soviet MiG-29s, said to be on par with the U.S. F-15s, would address this deficiency. With countertrade being mulled for the lease arrangement, the upgrading of the country's external capability could come at a very attractive cost.

"We prefer American systems, of course," the Air Force official said, noting that the Philippines has been wanting F-16s for quite some time now. "However, such aircraft and the necessary support infrastructure are just too expensive and the Americans have not been willing to make it easy for us," he said.

"We'll see," an American Air Force official remarked. "We just may have something to say about that."

Ironically, he's on good ground. Section 15 of the 1953 Mutual Assistance Agreement reads: "The Government of the Philippines shall procure arms, ammunitions, military equipment and naval vessels from governments or agencies other than the United States of America only on the basis of mutual agreement between the U.S. and the Philippine Government." This agreement is still in effect.

Fidel Ramos Enumerates 3-Point Political Agenda

HK1703011491 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos expressed confidence that he is very capable of becoming the next president of the country. Although he said he is not yet sure whether he would be the one to be endorsed by President Corazon Aquino. He said that he and his fellow Cabinet members with political ambitions are waiting for President Aquino's guidance and advice before announcing their respective political plans. According to Ramos, he is being encouraged further by the results of various poll surveys that consistently give him high ratings. He also said that the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP] has the best machinery in all parts of the country and can greatly boost the victory for whoever will be chosen as its standard bearer.

Ramos enumerated his three-point political agenda as follows: First, he favors the gradual phase-out of the U.S. military bases by 1998, but the Americans will be given access to the bases; second, he wants to ease the country from its debts which is why he is opposed to the debt's [word indistinct]; and third, he plans to revitalize the economic program by increasing production and courting foreign investors.

Laurel-Cojuangco May Team Up in 1992 Elections

HK1803092791 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Chris Larano]

[Text] The Nacionalista Party [NP] may shelve its national convention this year if party stalwarts are successful in convincing Vice President Salvador Laurel and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. to form the opposition's presidential and vice presidential ticket for the presidential elections set in May next year.

Sources said a convenors' group, composed mainly of NP leaders, is spearheading negotiations for the formation of a unified opposition ticket with Laurel and Cojuangco as candidates.

Sources said Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile (NP), another presidential contender, is being persuaded to give way in return for the opposition's full support for his bid for the Senate presidency.

Laurel, Enrile and Cojuangco have publicly stated they have a "gentleman's agreement" that only one of them will seek the presidency.

Laurel is NP president while Enrile is the party's secretary general. Cojuangco is still partyless, but will likely join the newly formed Partido Pilipino and be its standardbearer.

"The results of the negotiations are encouraging. Johnny (Enrile) might be persuaded to do a Doy (Laurel) to avoid the fragmentation of the opposition," said the sources, referring to Laurel's decision to set aside his presidential ambitions and become President Aquino's running mate during the 1986 snap elections.

Should the negotiations succeed, sources said the NP will enter into a tactical alliance with Partido Pilipino and shelve its national convention set for December, where the party's candidates for the 1992 polls will be chosen.

Jerry Barican, Partido Pilipino founding chairman, said he knows of initiatives to come up with a unified opposition ticket. He said: "I am not aware of this one. But that does not mean it does not exist. Personally, I am hopeful." He said, however, it is still "a little early" for any of the three to back out of the race. "Normally, these compromises take place well into the presidential elections," he said.

Sources said the convenors' group has gotten the support of provincial chapters. "The general feeling, especially of provincial chapters, is that a national convention is too expensive and very divisive," they said.

Troops in Palawan on High Alert Against Intruders

HK1803055791 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 18 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[By Many Mogato]

[Text] The armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, has ordered the troops stationed in Palawan and the nearby Kalayaan island chain to "always maintain a high state of readiness" against external threats in the country's western boundary in the South China Sea.

Citing the important role of Palawan and Kalayaan islands in the development of a new national defense strategy, Biazon said these areas could be the potential source of regional conflicts in the future. He said the country's western flank, with its vast and rich fishing grounds and other marine resources, makes it an attractive target for intrusions by foreign powers and other "profiteering scavengers."

Military analysts also believe that the South China Sea, which serves as an important sea lane of communications and economic bloodline for many east Asian countries like Japan and Taiwan, could become a very volatile area.

For instance, several Asian countries, including China and Vietnam which have two of the largest armies in the world, have laid claim on several islets of the Spratlys Island group in the area. The Philippines also claims sovereignty over the island group and occupies at least eight islands, including Kalayaan's biggest member, Pagasa.

Military analysts believe that the recent oil discovery northwest of Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan, would strengthen the country's claim over the Kalayaan.

Biazon said Palawan and Kalayaan would be the central focus of the country's emerging national defense strategy because of their strategic economic and military location.

Biazon inspected troops in Palawan over the weekend and reviewed the security situation in the country's western flank. The military has noted frequent intrusions by foreign fishing vessels into the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea.

The intrusions prompted Biazon to order Marine, naval, and air force personnel to maintain a 24-hour full alert status in the area to protect the country not only from external threats but also from "rich scavengers" encroaching on the country's economic zone.

Salonga Warns Against Granting Amnesty to Rebels

HK1703010691 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga warned against the granting of general amnesty to military rebels and communist guerillas. According to him the granting of general amnesty will cause a division in the country instead of unification. The opposition, on the other hand, thinks that it can signal the start of reconciliation between the government and the leftist and rightist rebels. Salonga believes that the communist rebels are not interested at all in amnesty.

Military Notes Increase in NPA Rebel Activities

HK1803092091 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 91 p 9

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The military has noted an increase in the armed activities of the New People's Army (NPA) rebels during the first two months of this year. But it vowed to "wipe out the guerrillas" within the next 14 months or before the end of the Aquino term.

A military assessment prepared by the intelligence community showed that armed activities by the communist guerrillas increased by at least 4% during the first two months of this year compared with the last two months of 1990.

There was an average of 6.32 incidents during the months of November and December last year. But during January and February this year, an average of 6.57 incidents was recorded.

The increase in rebel activities consisted of large-scale attacks in Surigao del Sur, Abra, Sorsogon, Negros Occidental and Cotabato last month.

Rebel political and propaganda activities have also stepped up as anti-U.S. bases demonstrations and anti-government protests were held last month.

Anti-government graffiti along the streets have resurfaced calling for the dismantling of the U. S. bases in the country. But senior military officials said the increase in rebel attacks and armed activities in the countryside did not indicate that the rebels had seized the initiative and launched a "summer offensive."

"There's no summer offensive," Brig. Gen. Alfredo Filler, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2) told the CHRONICLE. He said the attacks were launched by the rebels in the military's "least prioritized areas."

"We don't have large concentration of forces in those areas and those were the areas the rebels were hitting to show that they are strong again," he said. He said it could be a tactical ploy to ease tension from the highly-prioritized areas or the rebel strongholds in the provinces. There are at least 18 prioritized areas this year based on the military's general campaign plan "Lambat-Bitag," [Net-Snaves]

Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, meanwhile, assured Malacanang that the military would continue to mount an offensive to flush out the remaining guerrillas in these areas.

For this year, Biazon has ordered troops to "vigorously pursue and sustain" combat operations in the following areas: Abra and Kalinga-Apayao in northern Luzon, Sorsogon in Bicol, Negros Occidental in the Visayas, and Surigo and Agusan provinces in Mindanao.

"I would like to reassure the president that the military operations to clear the area of communist strongholds will be vigorously pursued and sustained," Biazon said in a two-page letter to Malacanang last March 11.

In the same letter, Biazon urged the president to undertake a "positive unified government effort (in enhancing) security (and socio-economic) development" as he stressed that the "military alone is insufficient to address the insurgency problem."

Biazon said the worsening economic condition in the countryside would make residents there more vulnerable to rebel propaganda and recruitment and could give the rebels a chance to regain strength. Biazon said the rebels usually launched "highly visible armed activities" during summer "as part of their annual ritual to show that they are still around."

CPP-NPA Said To Increase Summer Activities

HK1703012291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Mar 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief General Rodolfo Biazon admitted that the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army] still has many strongholds particularly in Abra and Marag Valley, although there are ongoing anti-insurgency military operations in the areas. According to him, the rebels are rechanneling their forces to join bigger NPA groups as part of the general strategy of Lambat Bitag.

[Begin Biazon recording in English] The thing is, in Northern Luzon there are, specifically in Abra and Marag, which used to be their stronghold before, there are Armed Forces operations going on to dismantle their hold on the area. [end recording]

In a related development, General Biazon is expecting the NPA underground movement to increase their highly-visible activities this coming summer, but negates that this would signal a change in the developing trend which is the continued weakening of the CPP-NPA revolutionary movement. He is hoping that the government can come up with combinations of economic recovery that will dictate the flow of service delivery to the people, and the continued reform program in the Armed Forces. This, he said, will speed up the weakening of the underground movement. The expected increased activities of the NPA this summer is part of a strategy to project that they are still around, and to cover-up for their decline.

[Begin Biazon recording in English] Just because there is some increase this month of the visible activities of the CPP-NPA, does not mean that they are recovering. The trend for their decline is still there, continuing. [end recording]

Military Offensive Halted for Hostage Negotiations

HK1803054991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 91 p 27

[By Mike Crismundo]

[Text] Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur—The biggest military offensive this year against New People's Army rebels under rebel priest Francisco Navarro alias Ka [Comrade] Migo in Mindanao was halted following request of church and civil officials who are negotiating for the release of a kidnaped geodetic engineer and eight other employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Surigao del Sur, it was learned yesterday. The "Operation Rolling Thunder 11," however, will resume any time, Army soldiers said.

Maj. Alfredo Bunga, spokesman of the 4th Infantry Division, did not give any details on the negotiations between the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Diwata Command and church and provincial officials in Surigao del Sur. The religious and civilian leaders are negotiating for the release of nine members of government road survey team led by engineer Medardo Guqildo.

Bunga told newsmen that the nine DPWH employers were abducted March 9, at Barangay Janipaan, while they were surveying a road section of the highway in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur. Villagers told soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Battalion [IB] under Maj. Demetrio Gabutin that some 50 rebels took the hostages to their camp in Mt. Diwata.

Brig. Gen. Pinpin Alcudia, 4th IB commander, alerted the three battalions of the 401st Infantry Brigade under

Brig. Gen. Renato Garcia to immediately pursue "Operation Rolling Thunder 11" after the negotiations, whether it is successful or not. The 4th IB commander also requested for a standby support from the 205th Helicopter Wing, 15th Strike Wing and 10th Artillery Battalion for a possible air cover and ground support.

The "Operation Rolling Thunder 11" started early this week after the rebels attacked the 426th PNP [Philippine National Police] Company and the municipal hall of Cagwait, Surigao del Sur recently where eight soldiers were killed.

Government Troopers Capture Samar NPA Camp

HK1803054791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 91 pp 1, 27

[Text] Government troopers overran a big New People's Army (NPA) camp in Oras, Samar over the weekend, killing four communist guerrillas and wounding several others, reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City said yesterday.

Sketchy reports said elements from the Charlie Company of the Army's 4th Infantry Battalion raided the NPA camp at Barangay Tawagan and seized it after an hour-long gun-battle with rebels.

Col. Juanito Rimando, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said rebels were able to escape before soldiers could get inside the camp. Government forces then took over 19 bunkers and a lecture hall that can accommodate 30 persons a few minutes later, he said. Rimando said troops also recovered two Armalite rifles, an ICOM handheld radio, claymore mines, and subversive documents at the camp.

Meanwhile, a former communist leader disclosed yesterday a plan by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA to use Palawan as the movement's expansion point in Luzon.

Efren Rodrigo, former head of the political unit of the CPP National Democratic Front (NDF) in Palwan, said communist leaders plan to undertake recruitment activities and strengthen their forces in the province this year.

Rodrigo, who was arrested last December in a raid by the Philippine National Police, said he was one of those directed by the CPP-NPA-NDF leadership to strengthen the Bagong Nabal ng Bayan (NPA navy unit) in Palawan. He said the CPP-NDF is using legitimate issues such as forest conservation and ancestral lands to win the sympathy of the people. He confirmed that one of the groups being used as a communist front is the "Haribon Foundation" which had accused the military of protecting illegal logging in the province.

Other sectors, however, categorically denied that the "Harbin" is a communist front, saying that the military is being used by certain businessmen to go on with their indiscriminate logging activities in Palawan.

Human rights groups protested against the arrest of several members of Haribon after the group exposed a "military connection" in illegal logging in the province.

14 Soldiers Killed in Various Clashes With NPA

HK1803052991 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Mar 91 p 1

[By Manny Velasco]

[Text] Fourteen soldiers, including an Army officer, were killed and eight others wounded in three ambuscades staged by New People's Army [NPA] rebels in the provinces of Kalinga-Apayao, Camarines Norte, and Antique, reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said yesterday.

In Kalinga-Apayao, some 20 NPA rebels ambushed last March 13 members of the 124th Philippine National Police [PNP] at sitio Putao, Barangay Tapao, Cagaluan, Pasil. Killed were C2C [Constable 2d Class] Prudencio Carbonell and Pat. Gerry Banson. Four soldiers were wounded.

The second ambush took place at sitio Nico, Barangay Dalnac, Paracale, Camarines Norte, where members of the 246th PNP company under Capt. Dante Villanueva were attacked by rebels while on their way to respond to a robbery incident.

The fatalities were S/Sgt. [Staff Sergeant] Jaime G. Gabatin, S/Sgt. Fernando Monteclaro, Sgt. Alex M. Panotes and C2C Jun Clat. Three soldiers were wounded. No one was reported injured on the enemy side.

On the same day, another group of government troops on their way to a civic action program was waylaid at Barangay Luyang in Antique town.

One officer, six enlisted personnel and one CAFGU [Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit] member were killed, while one enlisted man was injured. Their identities were not immediately known. No casualty was reported on the rebel side.

30 Mindanao Civilians Charged With 'Rebellion'

HK1803111891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91

[By Ron Bayani]

[Text] Thirty civilians believed to be members and officers of the Mindanao Independence Movement [MIM] were charged today with rebellion by the Department of Justice. This is in relation to their participation in the failed Mindanao mutiny led by ex-Colonel Alexander Noble.

According to Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Lorenzon dela Cerna, publisher and editor in chief of Mindanao Post and MIM secretary general, will be charged with rebellion, together with 29 others. The charges were based on preliminary investigations undertaken by Butuan City Prosecutor Jesus Zorobrado Jr.

Assistant Chief [word indistinct] Prosecutor Aurelio Trampe said that the aforementioned civilians joined Colonel Noble in the forceful takeover of a military camp in Butuan City, distributed secessionist leaflets, and gave away food to rebels. According to Trampe, the gathered evidence showed that the accused civilians supported the rebellious activities of Noble's group.

Thailand

Minister Briefs Press on Anan-Solomon Talks

BK1803071491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, spoke to reporters after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon's courtesy call on Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at Government House this morning. He said the U.S. assistant secretary of state called on the prime minister for consultations, and in order to give the prime minister a briefing on his meetings with leaders of several countries on a solution to the Cambodian problem. The U.S. position is that it supported the idea of a meeting between senior officials of various Cambodian factions first before a ministerial meeting on a settlement of the Cambodian problem. Kasemsamoson said Thailand's position is that it supports the UN actions and feels that the countries concerned, such as China and Vietnam, should play a more active role in resolution of the Cambodian problem.

According to Kasemsamoson, the prime minister reiterated to Solomon that Thailand has been earnestly engaging in narcotics prevention and suppression. It has proposed an amendment of the law for firmer punishment of narcotics offenders. The National Legislative Assembly is expected to consider the amendment soon, because narcotics prevention and suppression will benefit both Thailand and other countries.

Kasemsamoson said the U.S. assistant secretary of state informed the prime minister that the U.S. economy is recovering from a mild recession, and he felt the Thai economy is also on the road to recovery.

Foreign Minister, Solomon Discuss Cambodia Issue

BK1803010091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin yesterday asked the United States to ask the Soviet Union to pressure Vietnam and Phnom Penh to quickly come to an agreement with the three Cambodian resistance factions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek told reporters that Mr Asa made the request to US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Richard Solomon at a dinner in Bangkok last night. Mr Sakthip said Mr Solomon briefed Mr Asa on his Asian tour to China, Japan and Indonesia where he discussed the Cambodian problem.

Mr Asa and Mr Solomon agreed that the 12-year-old war should be solved within the framework put forward by the United Nations Security Council and what was concluded at the International Conference on Cambodia in Paris.

However, Mr Asa asked that the US talk to Russia to persuade Hanoi and the Phnom Penh regime to negotiate with the Sihanoukist, Son Sann and Khmer Rouge factions to resolve the conflict quickly. He told Mr Solomon that Thailand would treat all four Khmer factions equally but wants to see agreement on the Supreme National Council and the body to have more of a role in establishing peace in Cambodia.

Mr Asa and Mr Solomon also agreed that Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas should have more of a role in bringing the Khmer factions to the negotiating table quickly, Mr Sakthip said. Mr Asa told Mr Solomon that he would like to see the US play more of a role in the region.

On Laos, Mr Asa said that Thailand has a policy to help its neighbour and is not opposed to the US wanting to help Laos.

On bilateral relations, Mr Sakthip said Mr Solomon repeated that US support and assistance for Thailand will continue. However, the Bush administration had to cut military and economic assistance to Thailand following the February 23 coup d'etat because of US law.

Asked if Mr Solomon had said when aid would resume, Mr Sakthip said: "Mr Solomon stated clearly that aid would be resumed after a general election is held in Thailand." He said Mr Asa had told Mr Solomon that Thailand was fully committed to suppressing narcotics. Mr Solomon said it was an "excellent talk" with the Thai Foreign Minister. Mr Asa is scheduled to take Mr Solomon to meet Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at Government House at 8.45 a.m. today.

Meanwhile, Khmer resistance sources said that Mr Solomon held talks here with Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh earlier yesterday. The results of the 45-minute meeting were not immediately known. Mr Solomon also reportedly met later with Mr Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), before dining with Mr Asa.

The United States backs the two non-communist factions led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, now represented in Bangkok by his son Prince Ranariddh, and Son Sann, a former Cambodian prime minister. Both factions are allied with the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge against the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government in a guerrilla coalition that operates out of bases on the Thai-Cambodian border.

The senior envoy's visit coincided with the arrival of Australian Deputy Foreign Affairs Secretary Michael Costello in Phnom Penh on Saturday in a diplomatic flurry aimed at breaking the stalemate in the Cambodian peace process.

Hanoi and the government that it installed in Phnom Penh in 1979 object to a UN-brokered peace plan to end the conflict in Cambodia. The two communist governments demand that a peace settlement include strong measures to prevent a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, and have rejected any dismantling of the Phnom Penh government and demobilisation of its troops.

Mr Solomon is on a regional tour that took him to Beijing, where he met with Chinese and Soviet diplomats as well as Prince Sihanouk. He then went to Tokyo, where a new peace proposal was drawn up, and to Jakarta for talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, non-communist Southeast Asia's designated interlocutor with Soviet-allied Vietnam.

Japan's proposal urges an electoral ban on any faction that resumes fighting after a demobilisation of troops is agreed upon.

King Approves List of National Assembly Members

BK1603013591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] His majesty the king yesterday approved the list of 292 National Assembly members, about half of whom are military oficers, whose primary task is to draft a constitution to pave the way for the general election.

A total of 148 military officers were appointed to the National Assembly and thus effectively controlling the majority, according to the list announced last night. Only two of the key leaders in the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin were named to the assembly.

Thirty nine bureaucrats were also appointed, accounting for 13.36 per cent of the national legislators who are assigned the task of passing laws to be proposed by the caretaker government and to form a working group to draft the permanent constitution. Twenty nine others, or 9.93 per cent, are well-known businessmen, while 11 ex-MPs [members of Parliament] and six journalists were also appointed to the assembly.

The businessmen include Kasem Chatikawanit, chairman of the Thai Oil Co Ltd, Tharin Nimmanhemin, chairman of the Thai Bankers' Association, Dhanin Chearavanont, president of the CP Group and Pharon Itsarasena, president of Siam Cement Co Ltd, Supphachai Phanitchaphak, president of the Thai Military Bank, and Piya Phiromphakdi, executive director of Bunrot Brewery.

Before the appointments, the all-powerful NPKC said that the new constitution should stipulate the principle of separating the executive branch from the legislative body. In other words, MPs must quit the House if they are appointed Cabinet members and non-MPs can also be picked by the prime minister to become ministers. But Premier Anan Panyarachun yesterday refused to comment on the proposed separation idea, saying it was the responsibility of the National Assembly to consider the issue.

Informed sources said that a group of veteran legal advisers to the NPKC recently submitted a package of proposals concerning the principle to the military junta. Under the package, the prime minister would not have to be a member of a political party and permanent officials could take up political posts, while MPs must quit the House if they are picked as Cabinet members.

The legal advisers also proposed that the Senate speaker would be parliament president and that not only MPs but also senators would decide who should be the prime minister. The number of MPs and senators would also be reduced under the proposal.

The package of proposals has caused a stir among politicians and even among a group of people who are close to the military junta. However, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the NPKC deputy chairman, virtually the most powerful figure in the council, has not approved the proposal.

The proposal has touched off speculation that Suchinda would have a chance of becoming prime minister but he has made it clear on every occasion possible that he has no desire to enter politics.

THAI RAT Publishes List

BK1603034091 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Mar 91 p 10

["Announcement on Appointment of Members of the National Legislative Assembly"]

[Text] His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has issued a royal command appointing members of the National Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand of 1991, as follows:

1. Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kamon Dechatungkha
2. Konphot Atsawinwichit
3. Krit Rattanarak
4. ACM Kan Phimanthip
5. Kroekkiat Phiphatseritham
6. ACM Kroekchai Hansongkhram
7. ACM Kaset Rotchananin
8. Kasem Chatikawanit
9. Air Marshal [AM] Kasem Thawiwat
10. Kasem Narongdet
11. Lieutenant General Kasem Thammakun
12. Kasem Watthanachai
13. Air Vice Marshal [AVM] Kiattisak Thepkunchon
14. Komen Phattharaphirom
15. Vice Admiral Kosum Kamonnawin
16. Vice Adm. Kolak Charoenruk

17. Lt. Gen. Khachon Ramanwong
18. Major General Khasem Kraisan
19. Khunthong Thiangtrong
20. General Khamron Kanchanakhom
21. Khreng Suwannawong
22. Khiang Bunphoem
23. Gen. Nhamphon Nutsathit
24. AM Charun Wutthikan
25. Charat Suwannawela
26. Chirayut Wasurat
27. Chattawa Klinsunthon
28. Charoenchit Na Songkhla
29. Lt. Gen. Charin Sawangwan
30. Lt. Gen. Choe Phosingak
31. Lt. Gen. Chamlaeng Uchukomon
32. Lt. Gen. Charan Kullawanit
33. Lt. Gen. Charun Phunsanong
34. Vice Adm. Chan Konkitkowin
35. AM Chaloei Warintharakhom
36. AM Chaloem Prasoetsi
37. Chatchua Kannasut
38. Vice Adm. Chaleng Ong-at
39. Gen. Chatchom Kanlong
40. Maj. Gen. Chainarong Nunphakdi
41. Lt. Gen. Chaiwut Simat
42. AM Chaisat Chakhriyarat
43. Chira Phanuphong
44. Chusak Sirinin
45. Lt. Gen. Choetchai Thiratthanon
46. Rear Admiral Chokchai Phonchai
47. Chokchai Aksonnan
48. Lt. Gen. Chan Hanyut
49. Admiral Chat Ditbanchong
50. Vice Adm. Narong Osathanon
51. Colonel Narong Kittikhachon
52. M.L. Trithotsayut Thewakun
53. Lieutenant Thawon Rattanawadi
54. AM Thawon Koetsin
55. Thirachai Wutthitham
56. Vice Adm. Songsit Kittiphirachon
57. Thanong Lamyai
58. Thawi Nunphakdi
59. Lt. Gen. Thawisit Sangsomwong
60. Maj. Gen. Thotsaphon Songsuwan
61. Thinnaphan Nakhata
62. Thatsana Bunthong
63. Thaksina Sawananon
64. AM Danai Morin
65. Dusit Siriwan
66. Thammanun Latphli
67. Thammanun Prachuapmo
68. Thawat Wichaidit
69. Adm. Thawatchai Kosonnawin
70. Rear Adm. Thatchaphong Wiwatthanakun
71. Maj. Gen. Thitiphong Chennuwat
72. Tharin Nimmanhemin
73. Thanin Chiarawanon
74. Gen. Chian Chonmaitri
75. Nopphadon Thongsophit
76. Nitinai Nakhonthap
77. Nitsai Wetchachiwa
78. Lt. Gen. Narudon Detpradiyut
79. Lt. Gen. Nop Phinsaikaeo
80. Nanthaka Supraphatanan
81. Niphon Wongtrangan
82. Niphan Phromphan
83. Sub Lieutenant Bunyong Watthanaphong
84. Gen. Banchop Bunnak
85. Bodi Chunnanon
86. Bunchana Atthakon
87. Lt. Gen. Bunthaen Nianchaloei
88. Banyat Suchiwa
89. Lt. Gen. Pramon Phalasin
90. Maj. Gen. Panthep Phuwanatnurak
91. Maj. Gen. Prasoet Phakcharoen
92. Vice Adm. Prida Kanchanarat
93. Vice Adm. Prachum Khruawan
94. Vice Adm. Prawit Siwarak
95. Vice Adm. Prida Karasut
96. ACM Prachum Chaisiri
97. AM Pramot Wiruttamasen
98. AVM Prawit Photpraphan
99. ACM Praphan Thupatemi
100. Pradit Charoenthaithawi
101. Patchai Bunnak
102. Praman Chansu
103. Prayat Thirawat
104. Prasoet Nasakun
105. Sub Lt. Prachak Sibunruang
106. Praphat Premmani
107. Lt. Gen. Prasoet Sararit
108. Lt. Gen. Pricha Rotchanasen
109. Vice Adm. Prawit Palasi
110. Prasop Rattanakon
111. Prasoet Bunsi
112. Sub Lt. Praphat Limpaphan
113. Pakit Phattanakun
114. Parinya Chetaphiwat
115. Prasoet Prasatthong-osot
116. Piya Chakkaphak
117. Prachai Liophairat
118. Piyabut Chonwichan
119. Piya Phiromphakdi
120. Phaophat Chawanalikhitkon
121. Lt. Gen. Phaibun Hongsinlak
122. Lt. Gen. Phairot Chan-urai
123. Lt. Gen. Phaibun Emphan
124. Adm. Phairat Chuthongchai
125. Rear Adm. Phinit Thong-aram
126. Phisan Munlasatsathon
127. Phinit Chantharasurin
128. Vice Adm. Phaibun Naksakun
129. AM Phanom Thiratsawathi
130. Phanat Simasathian
131. Phachara Itsarasena Na Ayutthaya
132. Phaisit Phiphatkun
133. Phisit Phakkasem
134. Phongsak Phayakwichian
135. Phrao Niwatwong
136. Phaibun Changrian
137. Phairot Lamsam
138. Phaibun Limpaphayom

139. Phichai Watsanasong
140. Gen. Phichit Kunlawanit
141. ACM Phisit Sikanlasin
142. Phonthep Phonprapha
143. Phatchari Wongphaithun
144. Pharon Itsanasena Na Ayutthaya
145. Phanit Charoenphao
146. Lt. Gen. Phinyo Siriyaphan
147. Lt. Gen. Phuchong Ninkham
148. Lt. Gen. Mongkhon Amphonphisit
149. Rear Adm. Montri Wichityutthasat
150. Manot Kanchanachaya
151. Mahidon Chanthrangkun
152. Mewadi Nawaphan
153. Mali Sanitwong Na Ayutthaya
154. Yukti Sarikaphuti
155. Lt. Gen. Yutthana Khamdi
156. Lt. Gen. Yutthana Yaemphan
157. Rear Adm. Yanyong Kunkamthon
158. Yaowalak Phaengsapha
159. Yuk Na Thalang
160. Lt. Gen. Rawi Mukdaprakon
161. AVM Rangsan Thikhara
162. Rungtham Latphli
163. ACM Roengchai Sanitphan
164. Lakkhana Saengsanit
165. Lt. Gen. Wachira Suriyakun Na Ayutthaya
166. Lt. Gen. Watthana Sanphanit
167. Lt. Gen. Withun Sunthonchan
168. Maj. Gen. Watthana Bunyasit
169. Vice Adm. Wichian Ruangsi
170. Captain Wit Suksai
171. AM Wichit Samnongsuk
172. AVM Wira Sinehasan
173. AVM Wiraphong Singhaseni
174. AVM Wirat Wiwatkun
175. ACM Wira Kitchathon
176. Wirot Nuankhae
177. Witthaya Wetchachiwa
178. Wichit Sisa-an
179. Warin Phunsiriwong
180. Police Lt. Gen. Wirot Pao-in
181. Wirot Phutrakun
182. Wira Pitarachat
183. Gen. Wanchai Ruangtrakun
184. Gen. Wisit Atkhumwong
185. Gen. Wichai Phoemsap
186. ACM Woranat Aphichari
187. Gen. Wichit Sukmak
188. Gen. Wichit Bunyawat
189. Gen. Watthanachai Wutthisiri
190. Lt. Gen. Wanchai Amphunan
191. Lt. Gen. Wasin Itsarangkun Na Ayutthaya
192. Wina Choetbunchat
193. Wirun Techaphaibun
194. Wichit Suphinit
195. Winai Sama-un
196. Wan Chansu
197. Wichian Chanthaphakun
198. Withun Tangtrongchit
199. Wichai Thosuwanchinda
200. Wikit Wiranuwat
201. Lt. Gen. San Siphen
202. AM M.R. Siriphong Thongyai
203. AM Suphang Kaeophanphong
204. Siwawong Changkhasiri
205. Sirichai Bulakun
206. Sasima Siwikon
207. Gen. Siri Thiwaphan
208. Supphachai Phanitchaphak
209. Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun
210. Lt. Gen. Sakan Sathityutthakan
211. Maj. Gen. Somphan Bunkangwan
212. Maj. Gen. Sommai Wichawon
213. Maj. Gen. Samphao Chusi
214. Maj. Gen. Suwit Chaiprapha
215. Maj. Gen. Somsak Saengchanloet
216. Lt. Gen. Somphon Toemthongchai
217. Lt. Gen. Suthep Siwara
218. Adm. Surin Thongcharoen
219. Adm. Somphong Kamonngam
220. Rear Adm. Surat Rattanaphruk
221. Vice Adm. Surawut Maharom
222. Vice Adm. Samran Somrup
223. Vice Adm. Somnuk Rakson
224. Vice Adm. Suwit Watthanakun
225. Capt. Suthat Wongthai
226. AM Samat Sotsathit
227. AM Somsak Kusalasai
228. AM Suraphat Chopkonsuk
229. AM Sommot Suntharawet
230. AM Sa-at Kangwon
231. AVM Sane Ngamlamiat
232. AVM Soemyut Bunsiriya
233. AVM Somsak Wesuwan
234. ACM Sombun Rahong
235. Gen. Som Khatphan
236. Sansoen Uthaichaloem
237. Sutthikiat Chirathiwat
238. Sarawut Watcharaphon
239. Suwit Sutthanukun
240. Samran Thawarayut
241. Group Capt. Sophon Suwannaruchi
242. Gen. Sit Chirarot
243. M.R. Saritdikun Kitiyakon
244. Sukhum Laowansiri
245. Sansoen Kraichitti
246. Somphong Amonwiwat
247. Suwit Futrakun
248. Somphop Hotrakit
249. Adm. Somphot Khamasunthon
250. ACM Suwit Chanthapradit
251. Lt. Gen. Somchet Sapsombun
252. Lt. Gen. Suphit Wora-uthai
253. Maj. Gen. Somphot Sunthonmani
254. Suang Aksaranukhro
255. Pol. Gen. Sawat Amonwiwat
256. Suwan Chansom
257. Singto Changtrakun
258. Sukhawit Rangsitphon
259. Samroeng Ninpradit
260. Sumon Somsan

261. Suchat Howatthanakun
262. Soemsak Karun
263. Sutham Arikun
264. Sawat Chotphanit
265. Maj. Gen. Han Phethai
266. Adm. Han Sakunphanit
267. Gen. Arun Pariwattham
268. Lt. Gen. Uam Manorat
269. Lt. Gen. Anauphap Songsunthon
270. Lt. Gen. Ariya Ukhotkit
271. Vice Adm. Amnat Chanthanamattha
272. Amnat Son-imsat
273. Usomsak Utchin
274. AVM Amphon Charusombat
275. Col. Udom Thawiwat
276. Aphilat Osathanon
277. Uthai Sutsuk
278. Gen. Atthaya Phaeophanchon
279. Asa Meksawan
280. Osot Kosin
281. Pol. Lt. Gen. Ong-at Phutphat
282. Anan Atilaksana
283. Lt. Gen. Oraphan Watthanawibun
284. Anuwat Limsuwan
285. Lt. Gen. Amphon Supphasamut
286. Ukkrit Mongkhonnawin
287. Amnuai Wirawan
288. Abdunwahap Abdunwahap
289. Asit Benhawan
290. Ekkachai Hankamon
291. At Si-at
292. Maj. Gen. Ruthai Nilobon.

Announced on 15 March 1991, being the 46th year under reign of the present king.

Countersigned: Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong, Chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly.

Investigator Says Evidence Implicates Chatchai

BK1703022191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 91 p A1, A2

[By Prakopphong Phanaphu]

[Text] Sit Chirarot, head of the committee investigating 25 politicians accused of having made huge fortunes while in power, said yesterday former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and some other former Cabinet members appeared to be implicated by newly-obtained evidence.

The chairman of the assets committee also voiced concern that some of the politicians had sneaked their assets out of the country or transformed their huge cash into properties and real estate.

Earlier on Friday evening, a leading member of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] told a group of senior editors that reports from banks and commercial institutions showed that deposits under the name of former finance minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who is also the secretary-general of Chat Thai Party, amount to nearly Bt [baht] 700 million. "That's only cash in his name. We are not talking about deposits in the names of people close to him and other properties such as land, etc..." he said.

He said some well-known former Cabinet members had incredibly low deposits at various banks. "One former minister had only about Bt70,000 in his name. But there were reports that he had previously taken cash, huge amounts of it, out of the country thrice to deposit his money in foreign accounts," he said.

Sitthi, noted for his integrity while he was interior minister under former premier Gen Prem Tinsulanon, said yesterday in addition to evidence implicating Gen Chatchai, his committee had also received complaints from members of the public, accusing the ex-premier of involvement in alleged corruption. However, he declined to elaborate on the complaints and the evidence sent to his committee. "I have received many letters implicating the politicians under investigation for corruption. Several of them link Gen Chatchai (to the alleged irregularities)," he said.

Sitthi said he was concerned about the practice of politicians transferring their cash to foreign banks and changing their money into property and other business interests. The practice has made it difficult for the committee to trace the politicians' real wealth, he added.

The retired general, who admitted that he knew virtually nothing about financial and banking affairs, said he would discuss with Bank of Thailand Governor Wichait Suphinit and other banking experts the practical ways to trace the elusive assets.

"I admit that I have virtually no knowledge in this field but I know many people in the business who are willing to help in this hide-and-seek game," he said.

Members of the committee met yesterday at the Office of the Counter Corruption Commission (CCC) to consider requests for leniency by some politicians whose assets had been frozen to facilitate the extensive investigation ordered by the National Peacekeeping Council, Sitthi said.

"One of the politicians requested that the freeze on the assets be lifted, but we decided to reject it," he said, without giving out names.

"However, the committee allowed three people to withdraw part of their money from their bank accounts because they really needed it," he said.

Sitthi sought one more month to fix the time-frame for the completion of the investigation. "But I can assure you that we don't have any intention of prolonging the probe and using it as an excuse to bar them from running in the next general election, which is expected to be organized next year," he said.

"Critics can say anything they think. But they cannot say I am playing a trick because, after all, I am not a professional actor," he said in response to criticism on the slow progress being made by his committee.

The committee chairman said although the panel had been authorized by the NPKC to investigate politicians in particular, it would not ignore it if it uncovered findings that some permanent officials had connived with the politicians to commit irregularities.

The military council which toppled the government of Gen Chatchai in a bloodless coup on Feb 23, accused the democratically elected government of being plagued with corruption, failing to protect the monarchy and attempting to split the military.

Meanwhile, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, who is also deputy leader of the NPKC, declared that he would be happy to be investigated by the Counter Coruption Commission (CCC) on his personal wealth.

"All senior military officers are required by law to submit their assets to the CCC once they take up positions. So, it is very easy to check whether we have accumlated wealth illegally through our positions," he said.

Aide Says Athit To Leave for Japan, London

BK1703012991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 91 p A1

[Text] Former deputy prime minister Athit Kamlang-ek is expected to leave the country on Tuesday and will stay in Britain for an indefinite period of time, a close aide said yesterday.

The aide, who asked not to be identified, told THE NATION that Gen Athit would travel to Japan and spend a few days there before going to London, where he would stay with one of his daughters-in-law. However, the source said it was still unclear what Athit's plan was after his arrival in London. "But Gen Athit may not arrive in London in time to see Gen Chatchai there as the former prime minister is leaving for Switzerland," the source said.

If the travel goes according to plan, Athit would become the second member of the previous administration toppled by the military in a bloodless coup on Feb 23 to go into exile abroad after Chatchai left the country last week.

Athit called on M.R. Khukrit Pramot at his house in Soi Suan Phlu around noon yesteday and was there for 30 minutes. He left without speaking to reproters at the house of the veteran politician.

Khukrit told reporters afterwards that Athit called to say goodbye before leaving on his foreign trip but said the former deputy prime minister did not say when he would leave or when he would return.

"I asked him how long he would be away. He just said he did not have a definite schedule," the former prime minister said. "But he said he would not be away for long and that he would return after finishing his business engagements."

Chatchai, Athit, the PM's [Prime Minister's] advisers and close aides were released on March 9 after having been detained by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] for about two weeks.

A few days after his release, Chatchai left the country, although Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and the military council had insisted that the release had no conditions attached.

The Democrat Party's deputy spokesman, Churin Laksanawisit, yesterday was critical of the National Assembly line-up, about half of whom are military officers, saying that not many of them were well-versed on constitutions.

Churin said a group of former senators who have been appointed National Assembly members had never voiced any views when they were in Parliament which was dissolved by the NPKC last month. Their appointment, Churin said, was not surprising. "Those who nominated them would naturally nominate only' those whom they can control", the former Phang-nga MP said.

Athit Departs 16 Mar

BK1803004691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Former deputy prime minister Gen Athit Kamlang-ek flew out of Thailand late on Saturday night for an unknown destination abroad.

An aide said Gen Athit left alone before midnight without revealing his destination, how long he would stay or when he would return.

On Saturday afternoon, Gen Athit paid a courtesy call on former prime minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot at the latter's Soi Suan Phlu home for an hour. M.R. Khukrit said the ex-deputy premier came to bid him farewell.

Earlier, Gen Athit told reporters he planned to visit Britain and the United States for a while.

After the military takeover on February 23, Gen Athit was held in military custody, separately from deposed prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, until their release on March 9.

Suchinda on Dissolving Labor Unions; Martial Law

BK1603020791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 91 p A1, A2

[Text] Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun declared yesterday that the military would not back down on its plan to dissolve labour unions at state enterprises, and said martial law would be lifted only after the "policy objective" is achieved.

Gen Suchinda, the No. 2 man in the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), said dissolving state enterprise labour unions was "one of the objectives" of the Feb 23 power seizure. He said former premiers Gen Prem Tinsulanon and Gen Chatchai Chunhawan had tried unsuccessfully to remove state enterprises from the Labour Relations Act, which had given them the right to call extraordinary union meetings—a legal form of strike.

Suchinda also confirmed union leaders' fears that the move would pave the way for privatizing state enterprises, particularly those operating at a loss. "I support the efforts by the previous governments to privatize state enterprises but this could not be done because of resistance from their labour unions", he said.

Suchinda described state enterprise labour unions as an obstacle to national development. The NPKC has yet to consult the caretaker government of Premier Anan Panyarachun on the steps to achieve the objective. "We don't know as yet how to go about it, but it is a definite policy.... The right to strike must be gone and state enterprise employees will be considered part of the government (bureaucracy)," he said. He said the NPKC would seek to explain to leaders of state firms' unions on the reasons behind the policy.

Meanwhile, Premier Anan and Deputy Premier Michai Ruchuphan were reserved in their views over the issue. "This issue has been debated for a long time and I prefer to reserve my view on it, for now", the premier said. Describing the proposal as a "sensitive issue", Michai said the military council had yet to consult with the government on the problem. Nonetheless, he commented that the military should seek to achieve the legal amendment through talks, and not by force.

Well-placed government sources said the NPKC plans to mobilize public support for its plan to deprive workers of state enterprise the right to organize unions and to strike. TV and radio stations under government and military control will be used to explain to the public and state firm workers the advantages of the move, the sources said.

Also under consideration is a TV debate, to be participated in by state enterprise labour leaders and supporters of the plan. The debate will be arranged if there is need to avert a strong backlash from unionists, the sources said. "We want the public to be on our side before making the decisive move", said one source who has usually been reliable in the past. NPKC leaders will also summon individual leaders of state enterprise labour unions to try to soften their resistance to the plan to exclude their unions from the Labour Relations Act.

Without the protection under the act, all labour unions at state enterprises would have to be dissolved, the sources said. Before staging the Feb 23 coup which deposed Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, the military leaders in the NPKC had already placed on their agenda of "national problems" the plan to deprive state enterprise workers of their legal leverage.

"They worked out their agenda before the coup, agreeing among themselves on the list of what was to be done if they seized power and imposed martial law. They have carried out the first item on the agenda—curbing the influence of Mafia-type godfathers nationwide—and they are now moving on to item number two," said a normally reliable source.

The junta, having anticipated resistance from the unions, had Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin float the idea in a press interview on Thursday to test the reaction of union leaders and the public. "They knew this was going to be a tough job and, therefore, they moved cautiously", the source said.

The sources said the NKPC leaders believed that an amendment to the Labour Relations Act would be probable under martial law because political demonstrations are strictly banned. Efforts by past administrations had failed because the legal amendment would have had to go through a long parliamentary process and be subject to pressure from protesting employees of state enterprises.

"The military leaders have concurred that they should resolve the problem for the next government to be formed after the general election—no matter who would be in the administration," a source said.

The sources said that the military council would release figures which would show that state enterprise workers were better paid and enjoy better fringe benefits and rights than government officials, while the latter have more discipline to comply with.

State enterprise unionists, exercising their right under the Labour Relations Act, won most of their demands in the past through strikes and threats of strikes. Their strikes took place in the form of "extraordinary union meetings" permitted under the act. Some of the state enterprise unions have also been used to create trouble.

"Employees of state enterprises won't lose any benefits as a result of the legal amendment. They will continue to enjoy higher incomes than government officials. They will still get their bonus and those families of workers at the electricity authorities will still get free electricity," a source said.

The sources also accused certain labour union leaders of misusing assistance funds granted by foreign and international labour organizations. The Labour Department would be handling such funds in the future, they said.

The source said the military council did not have any plan to reduce the bargaining power of labour unions in the private sector. "It's the private sector workers and not the better-off state enterprise employees who should be protected and helped because they can be easily exploited by selfish employers. Apart from retaining their right to form unions and fight against unfair treatment, they will also benefit from the social security programme," one of the sources said.

Chawalit Warns NPKC on New Administrative System

BK1803002991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Former army commander-in-chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut warned the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] of possible "adverse and irreparable" damage to the country from experimenting with an "untested" administrative system.

The implied warning was apparently directed at the NPKC's controversial concept of total separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches. The caution was contained in a letter dated March 16 addressed to NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, his former close associate.

In the letter, Gen Chawalit said his New Aspiration Party felt that in previous governments—where a parliamentary system was in practice—there were checks and balances between the legislative and executive branches. There was also justification in the elections, he wrote.

The parliamentary system is suitable for the Thai society, he said, adding "especially this system recommended by King Rama VII, who bestowed the powers of government to the people as recorded in history, but which has not been truly implemented until today."

The New Aspiration Party said any shortcomings in the parliamentary system, such as the election of members of Parliament, must first be addressed and rectified. Changes should be introduced only when it has been proven—without question—that the old system of government is not appropriate for the Thai society, he said. "Changes of the whole system without any experience will bring about unforeseeable problems which may cause adverse and irreparable damage to the country," he said.

The ex-army chief voiced his implied disagreement with the NPKC's decision to maintain the Political Party Act on the grounds that such a decision could be ministerpreted as supporting the New Aspiration Party and undermining the democratic system.

Earlier NPKC deputy chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun joked that he would be blamed by Gen Chawalit had the NPKC dissolved all political parties because Gen Chawalit just set up his party.

Revoking the Poltical Party Act will promote the democratic system, said Gen Chawalit. He said the law as well as parliamentary regulations restricted political freedom. This is the root cause of parliamentary dictatorship, he said.

Gen Chawalit said he did not want political privileges from the NPKC. "All I want is equality and political equality among the MPs and political parties," he said.

The former army chief then pleaded with the caretaker government to refrain from taking any actions which could give an impression that a parliamentary system which has political parties and MPs as the main mechanism does not function effectively.

Columnist Assesses Plans for Separation of Powers

BK1503085791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Mar 91 p 4

[By Chadin Tephawan]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the two key leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council [NKPC] have finally let it be known that the political system of their preference is a separation of power.

Reactions reverberated from all quarters. Most of them focussed on the "separation" idea. But from another perspective, given the military's professed concern about keeping corrupt politicians out of office, perhaps one should look more closely at the idea of "power."

All political systems are, after all, about the control and management of power. Dominant social groups within societies the world over have always been engaged in competition for political power. After the end of absolute monarchy in Thailand in 1932, that competition has chiefly been one between various cliques of military officers, permanent officials and technocrats and, when allowed, civilian politicians.

Democracy, however, is a powerful ideology. It offers something military governments cannot offer: the legitimacy of a rule by the people. Thus, almost without exception the military cliques that came to power had always adhered to the policy of yielding power to a democratic government.

Thirteen constitutions, including the last one, have been promulgated with varying degrees of democratic freedom. But it was not until the early 1980's, when the communist threat was rapidly diminishing, that elected governments gained increasing dominance over the other groups.

Consequently, alliances began to shift. Civil servants, technocrats, businessmen, police and even some military officers leaned more and more towards the elected officials. Many also entered the electoral arena themselves. Throughout this period the government and the military frequently came into conflict in and outside Parliament.

Being a system of diffuse power, particularly in a coalition setting, the parliamentary system must function on due process in all it does. The one thing any democratic system needed most was time. Alas, the irresponsible and corrupt behaviour of a number of Cabinet ministers and MPs cut this short and brought about an end to the systems.

It took 14 years from the previous successful coup in 1977 to bring the democratic system to a point where it was beginning to take firm root. A popular notion was also gaining ground that there would be no more coups. Irrespective of the reason, the cycle has been broken. It may take longer this time to return to the same point.

The NKPC-appointed National Legislative Assembly will undertake the task of drafting a new constitution that will define the shape of a system of government based on the concept of separation of power. In other words, a new system of power is being drawn up. Though no constitution drafting committee has yet been formed, and the NPKC leaders have said the drafters would listen to all ideas and proposals about how the charter should be, questions abound.

The professed intention of bringing about such a system is to eliminate corruption and vote-buying. But how is one to do this as long as human greed and desire cannot be prevented? The last time a separation of power system was tried in 1968, the Thanom government found that all major bills, particularly the budget, faced impossible battles in the house unless the MPs received some "financial incentive." After a year under the system, Field Marshal Thanom had to stage a coup against his own government.

Under the American separate power system, the president is directly elected through a complicated system of party primaries and then squaring off in a bi-party showdown. He is directly answerable to the people and the party. The Senate and House of Representatives both comprise fully elected members with real powers to check and control the administration through voting on bills, committee hearings and a whole host of other measures.

The system is also separate through and through. There is an independent system of local government separate from the state machinery. Every public post from the county sheriff to the mayor of New York is elected.

Who under the Thai system wuold have the most say in appointing the prime minister? Would he need to go through an election or can permanent officials be appointed to the job? If so, who then would he be answerable to since he would not be answerable to the voting public?

Will the legislative branch have real clout with which to check and control the administration since they themselves are not to be part of it? In the US all civil servants are answerable to an elected official and are thus indirectly accountable to the public. Thailand does not have such a comparable system. In the past they had to answer to elected ministers but from now on ministers are not to be MPs, so how then can officials be held accountable to the public particularly if they are to be allowed to take Cabinet and other political posts?

If civil servants and bureaucrats are not accountable to the people, how can the system be truly called a democracy? If the Thai separation of power system is separated only at the head, without a body of back-up electoral systems as in the US, would it not then become a hollow system?

These are some of the questions that the constitution drafting committee will have to consider and answer as they draw up the new charter. Most of all they have to bear in mind how to go about creating a system of power with accountability to the public.

Accountability to the public is the key essence of any system that has any pretentions to being democratic. It directly implies the existence of elected politicians with administrative power. One just cannot do away with them though better safeguards would have to be found against the wayward politician.

Without accountability and answerability on the part of those who hold power, the consequences would be dreadful. The thought brings to mind the following story about Confucius:

In passing by the side of Mount Thai, Confucius came upon a woman who was weeping bitterly by a grave. The Master pressed forward and drove quickly towrd her: then he sent Tzely to question her. "Your wailing," said he, "is that of one who has suffered sorrow upon sorrow." She replied, "That is so. My husband's father was killed here by a tiger. My husband was also killed, and now my son has died in the same way." The Master said, "Why do you not leave the place?" The woman replied, "There is no oppressive government here."

The Master then said, "Remember this my child: An oppressive government is more terrible than tigers."

Government Withdraws Troops From Lao Border Area

BK1603021391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 91 p A2

[Text] Loei—Thailand yesterday pulled out its troops from the Na Haeo district here as part of a withdrawal agreement with Laos in connection with the dispute over the Rom Klao village.

"This is a historic day which is important to the improving relations between Thailand and Laos," said Maj Gen Somphan Bunkangwan, commander of the Third Infantry Division, who presided over the withdrawal ceremony. About 300 cheering officials and villagers gave flowers to some 1,000 departing soliders.

Laos on Thursday also ordered its troops to withdraw from the border area where bloody battles were fought in 1987-88, Laos's state radio reported. The Laotian withdrawal was to be completed by Tuesday, the broadcast said. Somphan said the withdrawal from Na Haeo district would also be completed on Tuesday.

A joint meeting will be held on Tuesday between Thailand and Laos to assess the progress of the withdrawal.

Vietnam

Hong Kong Officials Criticize VOA on Refugees

BK1803084891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] On 8 March, Hong Kong officials stated that the Voice of America (VOA) is encouraging the Vietnamese to leave their country. Officials of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees also condemned the VOA broadcasts for not only damaging the 1989 Geneva Conference's efforts to prevent the influx of refugees but also creating an illusive hope for some small Vietnamese groups about chances to be resettled in foreign countries.

The U.S. magazine INDOCHINESE PROJECT, in its 15 March issue, quoted a statement of an official working in a Hong Kong refugee camp that: The VOA broacasts twice daily in Vietnamese and it is encouraging the Vietnamese to leave their country illegally by saying that they still have a chance to be accepted overseas. This is definitely a conspiracy to destroy the whole activity plan of the UN. The official even accused the United States of holding Vietnamese children in prisons at refugee camps.

VNA Rejects Charges of Troops in Cambodia

BK1603151491 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—Recently a number of foreign news agencies reported that Vietnamese troops was still present in Cambodia and involved in combat there.

Vietnam News Agency is authorised to flatly reject the above-mentioned ill-intended fabrications.

Cambodian Political Department Chief Visits

BK1603075091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0419 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 16 March (SPK)—A delegation of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces headed by its chief, General Bou Thang, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a meeting on 14 March with a delegation of the General Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army led by its chief, Gen. Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice president of the State Council.

The two sides exchanged information on the situation and the national defense achievements in their respective countries as well as experiences on building up their armed forces. They expressed satisfaction at the constant consolidation and development of the friendship and special solidarity between the peoples and armies of the two countries.

Gen. Bou Thang sincerely thanked the Vietnamese people and army for their devoted assistance to the revolutionary cause of the Cambodian people.

The Cambodian delegation, which arrived in Vietnam on 10 March, visited several army units in the 5th and 7th military regions as well as many army schools and localities.

Nguyen Van Linh Receives Delegation

BK1703160991 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, yesterday received in Ho Chi Minh City the visiting delegation of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army led by Gen. Bou Thang, head of the department.

Gen. Bou Thang is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh extolled the great achievements recorded by the Cambodian people and army in their struggle for national defence and contruction. He also expressed his belief that under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the PRPK, the Cambodian people and army will obtain ever greater successes.

After informing the Vietnamese leader of the present situation in Cambodia, especially considerable achievements, and his working sessions with the General Political Department of the Vietnam People's Army, Gen. Bou Thang expressed his joy at the achievements made by the fraternal Vietnamese people in socioeconomic renovation and his belief that those achievements would provide a good basis for the Vietnamese people in steadily marching forward along the road of socialism.

He also renewed the wishes for the further consolidation and development of the special friendship between the peoples and armies of Cambodia and Vietnam and for the success of the forthcomimg Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The Cambodian military delegation left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding its working visit to Vietnam.

Nguyen Co Thach Meets Italian Industrial Team

BK1503142291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] A delegation of the Confindustrial Consortium of Italy led by Mr. Rosolin Orlano, president of the committee for foreign trade of the group, arrived in Hanoi recently to attend the Investment Forum for Vietnam being held in Ho Chi Minh City.

The delegation was cordially received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. Mr. Rosolin Orlano and his entourage had working sessions with comrade Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry and comrade Nguyen Tien Dung, vice minister of light industry to accelerate the implementation of several Italian projects in Vietnam. The Italian delegation also studied the current economic situation in Vietnam and potential for cooperation between the two countries, especially in small and medium-scale industry.

On 12 March, the Italian delegation called on Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi. The chairman exchanged views with the delegation on Vietnam's open door policy to expand cooperation with foreign countries. He highly appraised the Italian Government's goodwill in extending economic, scientific, and technological cooperation to Vietnam as well as in creating favorable conditions for Vietnam to expand its cooperation with EEC countries. Chairman Do Muoi expressed the hope that the Vietnam-Italy cooperation will be developed vigorously in the days ahead on the basis of equality and mutual interest.

Do Muoi Receives Consortium Delegation

BK1503122191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 12 March, at the Presidential Palace, Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received a delegation of the Confindustrial Consortium of Italy led by Mr. Rosolin Orlano, chairman of the consortium's Foreign Trade Council. The delegation was paying a working visit to our country. Present at the reception were Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, and the Italian ambassador in Hanoi.

On behalf of the delegation, Rosolin Orlano thanked the Vietnamese Government for creating favorable conditions for it to visit Vietnam and work with various sectors concerned to study and discuss measures to continue developing investment cooperation between Vietnam and large and small Italian industrial corporations in leather, footwear, textiles, silkworm, machine-building, and food industries. The consortium will strive to serve as a bridge for Italian companies to come to Vietnam to do business in the most effective manner possible, and to contribute to further strengthening the friendly relations between Vietnam and Italy.

Chairman Do Muoi explained to the guests Vietnam's open-door policy. He said that Vietnam is prepared to welcome investment by foreign companies and businessmen in various joint ventures in accordance with Vietnam's law on foreign investment and on the basis of mutual benefit, respect for each other's sovereignty, cooperation, and friendship. The chairman hoped that after this visit, the Confindustrial Consortium would actively contribute to broadening the existing cooperation between Italy and Vietnam in various economic sectors.

Philippine Deputy Foreign Minister Visits

BK1603152491 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—Philippine Vice Foreign Minister Manual T. Yao arrived here this afternoon for a friendship visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

He was accompanied by a number of Philippine diplomats and representatives of various companies of the Philippines.

The guests were welcomed at the government's guest house by Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co and others. The Philippine Charge D'affaires A.I. Emmanuel J. Contrera was also present.

Commentary Urges Improved ASEAN Relations

BK1503141591 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since early this year, Vietnam as well as most of the ASEAN countries have expressed continued desire for dialogue.

Speaking in Indonesia on 5 March, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said that ASEAN is considering the opening of dialogue with Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar [Burma] this year, starting with the meeting of regional foreign ministers in May 1991. The next step, the Malaysian leader added, is to invite the leaders of these three countries to the ASEAN summit scheduled in later this year or early next year in Singapore. Mr. Mahathir held that ASEAN should welcome any initiative by any country in this region of the admission of these countries into ASEAN.

The recent political changes in Thailand do not effect the friendship and cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam. Vietnam still keeps invitation to the Thai foreign minister to visit Vietnam. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE reporting from Bangkok said the Thai foreign minister, Asa Sarasin, planned to visit Vietnam after his tour of other member countries of ASEAN. The major Thai newspaper THE NATION stated in an editorial that at present there is no reason for Thailand not to continue improving relations with Vietnam and ameliorated relations between Vietnam and Thailand will help improve the political climate in Southeast Asia and directly or indirectly stimulate the four Khmer parties to reach an agreement.

Vietnam and the ASEAN countries have also been improving their economic cooperation. This is evident by the presence of many ASEAN businessmen at the current investment forum in Ho Chi Minh City. The participation by experts from Indonesia, the Phillippines, Thailand, and other regional countries of the recent workshop on housing development in Hanoi. [sentence as heard] The workshop was attended by delegates from 11 international organizations such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the United Nations Center for Human Settlement, Habitat; the Asian Institute of Technology; the World Bank; and the Asian Development Bank.

A notable event was the recent trip by Vo Van Kiet, the first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Malaysia while attending the seminar on economic strategy sponsored by the World Bank. This visit opened a new step in the relations of multi-faceted friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia. Vietnam has accepted the invitation from the minister of trade and industry to attend the Kuala Lumpur fair in October this year. This will be a good opportunity for

Vietnam to introduce its goods and explore trade ties in the region in Asia. Malaysia said it is ready to assist Vietnamese officials for exchange of experiences in the fields of common interest.

The recent developments manifest new prospects for the multi- faceted cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN. This will be beneficial to all countries concerned as well as peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Economic, Trade Delegation Visits Australia

BK1603090691 Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 16 Mart 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—A governmental economic and trade delegation led by Hoang Minh Thang, minister of commerce and president of the Vietnamese section in the Vietnam-Australia Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic and Trade Cooperation, visited Australia from Mar 6-12.

The delegation, guests of the Australian Government, attended the first session of the Intergovernmental Commission. The two sides reaffirmed their common desire to broaden bilateral economic and trade coperation and friendly relations, and to bring the two-way trade turnover to 100 million U.S. dollars in 1991. The Australian Government agrees to continue financing Vietnam's development projects in Vietnam through organizations in the United Nations system and grant credit to ensure exports to Vietnam. The two sides exchanged views on the orientations and possibilites for Australian investments in mining, oil exploration, telecommunication, farm produce processing, assembly of small-sized lorries and refrigeration equipment, tourism, training, and business and market management in Vietnam.

Minister Hoang Minh Thang and Australian Minister of Trade Negotiation Neal Blewett signed [words indistinct]. The Vietnamese delegation held talks with Senator John Button, minister of industry, technology and commerce; and Senator Gareth Evans, foreign minister, on bilateral economic and trade relations, and had working sessions with a number of state ministers on similar issues.

It also met with many Australian businessmen, bankers and manufacturers to introduce Vietnam's new economic policy, and toured a number of factories producing food-processing equipment for Vietnam.

Nguyen Khac Vien Urges Change in Party

BK1503082191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Mar 91 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Eye on Indochina" and entitled "VN [Vietnam] Critic: High Time for Change"]

[Text] For many years Mr Nguyen Khac Vien was one of the most articulate defenders of socialism in Vietnam: One of those Vietnamese who mixed in brilliant analysis patriotism and progress, national independence and Marxism. He wrote several books, including an history of Vietnam. While in France, where he was educated, he presided over the local Union of Vietnamese. Later he became editor of Vietnamese Review, published by the Foreign Publishing House in Hanoi.

In January, according to an AFP report, he sent a long letter of criticism to the Communist Party of Vietnam. The substance of his letter can be found—in French—in an interview he granted Doanket (Unity), a Vietnamese monthly magazine published in Paris, which is normally supportive of the Hanoi regime. The interview was published in the January issue.

"The 6th Congress in 1986 elaborated a new, correct policy," Nguyen Khac Vien told Doanket, "but failed to solve organisational problems. The wine is new, but it is still the same old bottle."

It is not the first time that Nguyen Khac Vien has criticised the regime. In June 1981, from Hanoi, he sent a long letter to the National Assembly (not to the party!) which was not made public in Vietnam at the time. "Everybody knows that our country is facing an extremely difficult situation. External enemies are threatening us, the economy is collapsing, the people are losing confidence," he wrote. (A full version of the letter can be found in La Bureaucratie au Vietnam [Bureaucracy in Vietnam], edited by Georges Boudarel, L'Harmattan, Paris 1983. Most of the analysis contained in the book is still perfectly relevant today). The most direct consequence was probably the forced retirement of Nguyen Khac Vien as editor of Vietnam Studies in February 1983.

Today Nguyen Khac Vien, 78, lives in Ho Chi Minh City. To Doanket he said "the essential weakness of the regime is the state-party apparatus elaborated in time of (and for) war, a time during which economic and social foundations were rudimentary and foreign exchanges minimal." The war is over, says Nguyen Khac Vien, and the apparatus is incapable of solving urgent, fundamental problems faced by the country.

Already in 1981 he had noted that "serious mistakes had been made." Today the party leadership itself admits that much, but 10 years ago such declarations were both unusal and courageous, especially coming from a man who had been so closely identified with the Communist Party and its history.

In 1981 Nguyen Khac Vien still expressed a basic confidence in the party. He attacked the desire of each economic ministry to launch "big industrial or agricultural enterprises." Some people even dream of building an A-bomb, Nguyen Khac Vien remarked.

He added that the disastrous example of the Chinese "Great Leap Forward" should serve as a warning. The strong blame Nguyen Khac Vien puts on what he sees as the bad example of communist China is indeed one of the most striking features of the 1981 letter. "To analyse in depth our mistakes and discover their causes we have to ask the question: To what point has Vietnam been invaded by Mao's thinking?"

At the same time Nguyen Khac Vien explained that Vietnam's foreign policy should be more firmly based on the treatise on "Cooperation and Friendship with the Soviet Union." He denounced "narrow-minded nationalists" who entertained the "illusion that imperialism could help us if we distanced ourselves from the USSR.

Ten years later the tone is different. In his interview Nguyen Khac Vien makes no special reference to specific foreign policies or to any "imperialism," and he directs most of his criticism to the party apparatus, especially the Central Organisational Commission and the Commission on Culture and Ideology, "which have kept intact the mentality of the 3rd Congress of 1960!"

Nguyen Khac Vien does not demand an end to the socialist regime, nor does he ask for an end of the party's monopoly on power. He does not plead for a Western style multiparty democracy. He still believes, at least to a point, that the party can reform itself and has a role to play in the future. But it should be a role of guidance rather than of governing. The party and the state must be definitively, clearly separated, he told Doanket.

At present the party and the state have no clear boundaries, the party is running the show and its apparatus constantly clashes with that of the state and decisions take forever, he notes. And he attacks the omnipotence of provincial party secretaries who run everything "from economy to culture, including appointment of local personnel."

The role Nguyen Khac Vien sees for the party is not based on power but on intellectual integrity. In 1945, he pointedly remarks, "the Communist Party of Vietnam had no power, but nevertheless managed to mobilise millions of people for the August Revolution."

Already in 1981 Nguyen Khac Vien urged the party to promote young, well trained, enthusiastic cadres. Today he is a bit more blunt. Present leaders of the party are great men, he told Doanket, but they are "either too old and unfit to work or too deeply rooted in old ways of thinking and working. They are incapable of running the country." Vien declares the best thing these leaders could do for Vietnam would be "to retire. It would be an act of great patriotism." If the 7th Congress elects the "same old leadership, then the country will be bogged down in an increasingly serious crisis."

Nguyen Khac Vien expresses the hope that the people, including a large number of "true communist militants" will be able to find a solution to the present political crisis in Vietnam. The solution, he insists, requires democratisation, more openness toward the world community, more attention to scientific and technological progress. He predicts a Vietnam where the private sector will play a growing role, along with international enterprises. But he also urges the working class, "the people and the intellectuals," to counter-balance the excess "of exploitation of men and natural resources" and form a "Democratic Popular Front."

Nguyen Van Kiet's harsh criticisms came from Vietnam. In that sense his words may carry more weight than those of Colonel Bui Tin, the former deputy editor of the party daily Nhan Dan, who last year launched his "citizen's petition" from Paris, calling for a deeper and faster renovation of the socialist system in Vietnam. No newspaper in Vietnam would have accepted to publish Nguyen Khac Vien's views, so he had no choice but to talk to Doanket. But Nguyen Khac Vien is still in Vietnam, in Ho Chi Minh City, where he is director of a Study Centre for Children's Psychology.

There is little doubt that his views reflect those of a large number of Vietnamese; but one will have to wait for the party congress to find how much change the party apparatus is ready to tolerate.

Further on International Investment Forum

Investment Forum Enters Fourth Day

BK1703042891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] During 12-13 March about 700 meetings and talks related to 120 investment projects were held between project owners and investors attending the current Investment Forum for Vietnam being held in Ho Chi Minh City. This shows that 53 percent of the 180 main and 96 supplementary projects presented at the forum received keen interest from foreign investors.

According to official sources, 18 aide-memoirs were agreed upon by project owners and investors. A report from the forum said 350 foreign companies participated in the current forum during the past two days, of which French companies account for 14 percent; South Korea 8.5 percent; Italy, 7.5 percent; Japan, 7 percent; the FRG, 4 percent; and the United States 5 percent.

On 14 March the forum entered its fourth day. Besides organizing meetings for project owners and investors, the forum also held functions to attract more investors at home and abroad.

Representative of a French company presented its experiences in investment in Vietnam, while investment corporations of Dong Nai Province and Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone introduced their activities to foreign investors. Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh City provided information on its goods processing and export center.

Forum Issues Communique No. 1

BK1603085991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Voice Of Vietnam correspondent sent the following message from the investment forum currently held in Ho Chi Minh City: According to investment forum press communique No. 1, out of the estimated

U.S. $172.5 million allocated for technical cooperation in 1991, the United Nation Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO] is using a total of U.S. $45 million to implement 47 projects for Vietnam. These projects are similar to UNIDO's aid programs for some countries in the region such as Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The communique also disclosed that within one year the United Nations Development Program will give about $500,000 towards preparations for the Vietnam investment forum. After the first day, Vietnam State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee and UNIDO hosted a reception for the delegates of the investment forum.

Nguyen Van Linh at Session

BK1503140991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] After five days of active work in the spirit of cooperation and openness, the Investment Forum for Vietnam concluded with splendid success in Ho Chi Minh City today, 15 March.

The closing session was attended and addressed by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. In his address the general secretary said: To continue accelerating the renovation cause, the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress will discuss and adopt the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000 with the aim of stabilizing the socioeconomic situation, increasing national income, building new material- technical bases, and creating favorable conditions for rapid development in the future. These are tasks that Vietnam can fulfill.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh expressed thanks to UN organizations and other agencies in Vietnam for their efforts in organizing the investment forum for Vietnam.

In his speech at the closing session, Mr. Domingo Siazon, director general of the UN Industrial Development Organization, said the forum was a splendid success. He hoped that the results obtained at this forum will be brought into full play in the days ahead. Meanwhile, Mr. David Smith, representative of the UN Development Program in Vietnam said that the success was due to the renovation cause in Vietnam and assistance provided by the United Nations.

Also at the closing session, Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, hailed the success scored by the forum, asserted Vietnam's renovation cause, and welcomed positive responses from countries in the world.

Nguyen Van Linh Closing Speech

OW1503152591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1426 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, March 15 KYODO—Vietnamese Communist Party leader Nguyen Van Linh said Friday he is willing to pursue the path of "renovation" and the shift to market economy.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of a forum on international investment, Linh said the upcoming Seventh Communist Party Congress will discuss and adopt a long-term strategy to stabilize the social and economic situations in order to continue and develop the so-called "doi moi" or renovation line.

He said the aim of the policy is to democratize social life, reform economic organization and management, and expand cooperation with all other nations.

The five-day investment forum drew some 600 potential investors from Japan, Southeast Asia, and Western countries.

The big attendance shows that the policy enjoys a good deal of favor and support, the party leader said.

He also noted that there will be an economic reorganization and a rational and effective investment organization will be established to handle investments from abroad.

More on Nguyen Van Linh, Forum Closing

BK1503160191 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—The investment forum for Vietnam closed today after five days' sitting in Ho Chi Minh City, in the presence of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The forum was jointly sponsored by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Speaking at the closing ceremony General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh extended warm greetings to all delegates and said:

"Your [words indistinct] rising interest of foreign businessmen in Vietnam, and at the same time a token of your sympathy and encouragement for Vietnam's policy of renewal".

After highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of Vietnam in the implemeptation of renewal, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh said:

"To continue taking the process of renewal forward, the coming Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam will discuss and adopt Vietnam's strategy for socio-economic stabilization and development to the year 2000 with, as main objectives, the all-round stabization of the socio-economic situation, the new material and technical bases and thus the creation of premises for a faster development in the future".

The forum was attended by 640 foreign delegates from 431 companies of 31 countries.

At a press conference held in the city this morning, Vo Dong Giang, vice-chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, noted that the results of the forum are "promissing and beyond our expectation".

He added: "The forum provides Vietnam a good occasion to recognize prospects, opportunities, and challenges in the process of cooperation with foreign countries".

Vo Dong Giang also said that a total of 265 out of the 277 projects open for foreign investment (of which 90 projects were newly added at the forum) attracted the attention of foreign businessmen. However, he said, this is only the beginning of the foreign investment process in Vietnam.

For his part, Mr. Domingo Siazon, UNIDO director general, spoke about the results obtained during the five-day forum.

According to him, 49 agreements and one complete contract were signed at the forum. Besides 80 projects need further consideration and 20 others are on negotiations. He also said that 1,200 official and 250 improvised meetings were organized between foreign businessmen and Vietnamese owners of projects opened to foreign investment.

Earlier, at a ceremony held at the Thong Nhat Conference Hall, Nguyen Dai, vice chairman of SCCI, handed 11 licenses to foreign investment projects which have a total capital of 241.6 million U.S. dollars. These included nine projects for joint ventures and two projects with 100 percent capital contributed by foreign businessmen. The largest project is the joint venture SAS Hanoi Royal Hotel with total capital of 25 million U.S. dollars reached by the Hanoi Tourist Service Company and SAS International Hotel Investment of North Europe.

Nguyen Van Linh Thanks UNIDO, UNDP

BK1603090891 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, has heartily thanked development agencies of the United Nations for their assistance to Vietnam in its current renewal.

He was receiving Domingo Siazon Jr., general-director of the United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and David Smith, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam, on March 15 in Ho Chi Minh City. The representatives were there to attend the just concluded investment forum for Vietnam.

The Vietnamese party leader highly appreciated these two UN agencies' contributions to making the forum a success in the interests of both Vietnam and foreign investors. He asked them to make further suggestions on how to make Vietnam's cooperation with foreign countries more convenient and more fruitful.

Speaking also on behalf of UNDP, Domingo Siazon Jr. said that the presence of a large number of foreign businessmen at the forum is a testimony to the vigorous support for Vietnam's current renovation. "I myself," he added , "came to Vietnam in 1986 and now return here and see many changes in a positive direction. I am surprised at the abundance and beauty of Vietnam's consumer goods. Our two agencies will continue to support and assist Vietnam in economic development and we'll do our best to help you".

Further on Party Congresses, Draft Documents

Hon Gai City Holds Grassroots Congresses

BK1703144691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] To date, all party chapters and grassroots party organizations subordinate to the Hon Gai city party organization have finished the first round of their party congresses.

After holding four pilot party congresses, the standing body of the Hon Gai city party committee [Quang Ninh Province] met to draw on their experiences and to assign cadres from the party building sections to closely observe and assist various party organization congresses at the grassroots level.

In holding their congresses, all party chapters and party organizations have satisfactorily arranged for the participants to study, discuss, and contribute views on the draft documents of the party. Reports summing up the views contributed by the participants have been adopted and printed into many copies by party committee to be used as documents for discussion at the congresses.

All congresses have concentrated on two main tasks, in drawing up the documents of the Seventh National Party Congress and electing delegates to party congresses at higher levels.

Workers Union Discusses Draft Report

BK1703142691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 16 Mar 91

[From the press review for 16 March]

[Text] The weekly LAO DONG published views contributed by the Ho Chi Minh City Workers Union executive committee to the draft political report to be presented at the Seventh Party Congress.

Regarding the task of building the party and mass organizations, many views maintained that as far as leadership is concerned, our party has committed mistakes but has not been bold enough to analyze them and at times has been slow to rectify them. For example, price, wage, and money control as well as strict party discipline have all deteriorated. No action has been taken against many negative cases. The draft platform gives an inaccurate evaluation of the quality of party members. In fact, individualism continues to be very prevalent among many party members and is the objective cause of negativism.

To overcome these shortcomings, it is necessary for our party to strengthen party-buiding work and develop the vanguard and examplary role of each party member. In addition, it is important to take constant measures against negativism and corruption.

Politico-Military School Preparations

BK1603161691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Essay by Tran Vong presenting experiences acquired by the politico-military officers school in holding grassroots party congresses to contribute views on the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress]

[Summary] "Complying with Directive No. 59-CTTU of the party Central Committee, Directive No. 60-DUQSTU of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and Directive No. 192-KHTP of the General Political Department on convening party organization congresses at various levels in anticipation of the Seventh National Party Congress, the party committee of the politico-military officers school has issued a resolution providing guidelines for closely directing and supervising the first round of party organization and party chapter congresses.

"The party committee has clearly affirmed that this is the most important political indoctrination drive for the entire party, as well as for each grass-roots party organization and each party member. Therefore, it is necessary for all grassroots party organizations and party members to uphold the sense of responsibility and foster democracy by jointly contributing views on the documents to be presented at the Seventh Party Congress."

"The discussion and contribution of views on the five draft documents must be carried out comprehensively, in terms of content and form, for all issues concerning viewpoints, principles, objectives, orientations, duties, and major policies and measures set forth in each document.

"Each of the five documents has its own importance. Therefore, it is inadvisable to take any of these documents lightly. It still depends on the characteristics, duties, and abilities, however, of each grassroots party organization or each party chapter and on the practical results of this political indoctrination drive and the views contributed recently on these documents to determine key and important issues for intensive study and discussion. This is aimed at clarifying the party's basic viewpoints on these documents, achieving a high degree of unanimity and inspiring inflexible faith in the party, satisfactorily resolving the issue of relations between the party and the masses as well as well as between cadres and soldiers, making all party organizations and party chapters truly pure and strong, and leading all units in successfully carrying out their political tasks so as to enable the school to continue surging forward."

The school's party committee has chosen the party organization of the 7th battalion and the party chapter of the faculty of scientific socialism to serve as pilot projects, and the party organizations of the 2d, 5th, and 10th battalions to conduct the political indoctrination drive first in order to draw on experience.

Meanwhile, the standing body of the school's party committee has assigned its members to directly observe, supervise, and direct the congresses held by units serving as pilot projects.

"Due to the its important nature, before the congress is to be held, all party committee echelons have reviewed the situation of party organizations, party chapters, and party members and definitely settled all pending cases, complaints, and other burdens in their units. To ensure the quality of the discussion and contribution of views, all party committee echelons have informed party members in advance of the topics likely to be discussed at the congress so that they can prepare their speeches."

The nomination and election of delegates to party organization congresses at higher levels have carefully been prepared, using political quality, practical ability, and prestige in the party and among the masses as the main criteria.

"The school's party committee has promptly gained experience to guide the remaining units in holding their party congresses with better results."

Army Youth Union Views Party Documents

BK1603143091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Some 85 percent of youth union members in the army have recently contributed more than 50,000 ideas to the draft documents of the upcoming Seventh Party Congress.

The army youths manifested a high degree of agreement in asserting our country's advance toward socialism and the party's role in the Vietnamese revolution. Nevertheless, they desired that the party and state should particularly emphasize the consolidation and reorganization of the party, intensify the effectiveness of socioeconomic management and the socialist legal system, create a change in developing social democracy, arrange jobs for workers—especially for youths, and step by step formulate a social policy suitable to the new situation.

NHAN DAN Holds First Round Congress

BK1603140991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] On 14 and 15 March 1991, the NHAN DAN editorial staff held the first round of its party organization's 20th congress. The delegates to the congress worked with a scrupulous sense of democracy and a high sense of responsibility to the party. They heatedly debated and basically reached unanimous agreement on the contents of the draft documents of the upcoming Seventh Party Congress, and contributed realistic and concrete views to each specific issue of the documents.

The congress elected three delegates to the higher level congress.

People's Supreme Court Holds Congress

BK1603121391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The People's Supreme Court held its party organization congress from 12 to 14 March 1991. Implementing the party central committee's ninth plenum resolution, all party chapters of the supreme court's party organization recently held lively debates to contribute views to the draft political documents of the upcoming Seventh National Party Congress, clearly asserting that the judicial branch is an important and sharp tool of our state.

Delegates to the congress contributed many views to the draft platform of socialist construction in the transition period. They focused their debate on the issues of party leadership, state discipline and law, the role of the court and so forth.

Last year, the judicial branch performed its task in trying criminal cases well. It spent less time handling and settling economic cases, especially corruption cases, thus positively helping implement Directive 135 of the Council of Ministers.

Leaders of the judicial branch have also attentively directed the settlement of cases involving credit funds in localities. With a sense of responsibility and democracy, delegates to the congress have elected a new party organization of the People's Supreme Court.

Hai Hung Completes First Round Congresses

BK1603093991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Party bases of 12 districts, cities and six party organizations in Hai Hung Province have completed the first round of their party congresses. Some 130,000 party members in more than 1,000 party bases participated in discussing the documents of the upcoming Seventh Party Congress.

Congresses of party organizations and chapters have been held quickly and democratically in accordance with the prescribed principle. Many districts have held congresses in weak party organizations and chapters to train secretaries of party chapters and party committees in conducting congresses. Four village party organizations had to reconvene their congresses because they did not have the necessary quorum. Nearly all the views discussed at congresses unanimously agreed with the party central committee viewpoint on resolutely building the country along the socialist line chosen by Uncle Ho and supported the party's renovation process.

Many suggested that the central government should emphasize investment in an agricultural province like Hai Hung in order to make agriculture the leading sector. The party and state should also determine the socialist model for rural areas and the guidelines for building cooperatives. As a matter of fact, since Contract No. 10 allocated land and rice fields to peasant families, the management committees of cooperatives in many localities have lost their role. Also, grassroots level cadres have proven to be poor managers. The party should pay attention to personnel strategy and train young, intelligent, and qualified cadres for party bases as there are currently very few good management and technical cadres.

Air Defense Officers Discuss Documents

BK1503143191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The intermediate and high-level air defense officers school in early March held its first round of the party organization congress with the participation of 80 delegates from various units above the grassroots level. Unlike congresses at the lower level which discussed the general content of party draft documents, delegates to this congress debated on condensed topics such as experiences and lessons drawn from victories, the current political situation, the path toward socialism, the socio-economic situation and targets to be attained, national defense and security, and revision of the party regulations.

Delegates to the congress analyzed and discussed the party views on and appraisals of these topics. Most of the delegates expressed their identity of views on the party concepts. Some of them, however, suggested that revision should be made to several parts of the draft party documents to suit the current situation.

Many delegates objected to the phrase "great victory" repeatedly used in the draft platform on socialist construction, saying that it did not reflect reality and that when the platform mentioned shortcomings and mistakes it should not refer to "our party" in general but should point specifically to the Political Bureau, the Secretariat, and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Regarding the economic situation, the congress did not agree to the party appraisal that the inflation rate was on the decrease and that there was a surplus of grain for export, saying that the decrease did not reflect reality while grain exports were not made from a surplus.

Regarding the part dealing with foreign policy, the congress suggested that a more flexible strategic nature should be applied to this part because the platform is designed for a long period of time while the world situation is changing every day.

The congress also discussed many other parts of the party draft documents, especially those dealing with national defense and security. Many delegates discussed issues related to their units and suggested that the party should formulate concrete policies on building a strong army capable of defeating the enemy and effectively defending the fatherland.

Railroad Research Institute Holds Congress

BK1503142791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] According to the DUONG SAT VIETNAM [VIETNAM RAILROADS] newspaper, the party committee of the Railroad Installation Research Institute is one with many scientific and technological cadres. The whole sector consists of 85 party members from 280 cadres and staff.

The Railroad Installation Research Institute conducted its first round party congress in an atmosphere of satisfactorily finishing all 1990 scheduled tasks with research projects on the construction of railroads, bridges, locomotives, railroad cars, communications systems, and signals.

With enthusiasm the scientific and technological cadres, party members, and non-member cadres contributed many practical and useful ideas to the party documents.

At the congress, many representatives analyzed and emphasized many issues of central concern such as the economy; the human strategy; the direction, policy, and strategy of science and technology; and the developing direction in transportation. Many requested that there be a clear definition of the socialist model toward which we are working. Some big issues resulting in different opinions were discussed enthusiastically. The congress also listened to the opinions of non-member cadres.

Australia

Minister Opposes Resource Security Decision

BK1703074591 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 91

[Text] The federal minister for social security, Senator Graham Richardson, has admitted that he opposed cabinet's decision on resource security which guarantees the timber industry's access to native forests. Senator Richardson also says that the prime minister, Mr. Hawke, is extremely disappointed about the leaking of cabinet discussions on the industry statement unveiled in Parliament last week. Luke Lolla reports:

[Begin Lolla recording] In a recession, Graham Richardson says the power industry voices who want instant decisions on big projects are far more likely to prevail in cabinet. He says the resource security decision was based on a wrong perception by industry that cabinet accepted the fact that industry would not invest unless that perception, even though wrong, was cleared up. On the Greens, he says there could be one Green Party, not 60, with high profile candidates, it would be very successful, especially in Senate elections. [end recording]

Farmers Stage Protest Outside U.S. Consulate

BK1803055391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Perth, Australia, March 18 (AFP)—Angry Western Australian farmers staged another early-morning protest in Perth on Monday, dumping dead sheep at targeted locations in the city.

As commuters began to head into the city for the start of the week, farmers dropped the slaughtered animals outside the United States Consulate, the Australian taxation office and the state parliament house.

And the man who organised the protest, farmer Rod Madden, from the wheatbelt town of Morawa, warned of much more drastic action if notice was not taken of the farming community's plight.

"A group of earthmoving contractors from Albany (in the south- west of the state) phoned to say they are prepared to bring in their gear and, if necessary, bulldoze down parliament house," he said.

"They have also been hurt by the recession. The action we took this morning is the most placid suggested so far.

"We have urged the contractors not to take their suggested action.

"Another group in the eastern wheatbelt wanted to take some fairly militant action, and we have advised against that."

Mr. Madden was not prepared to say what the action was.

Monday's sheep-dumping protest came three days after farmers abandoned 14 hire trucks at strategic points on approaches into Perth to highlight the grim nature of the rural crisis.

Their action caused massive transport dislocation, causing thousands of people to be late for work.

Farmers are demanding that the Australian Government underwrite the price of this season's wheat crop, guaranteeing a minimum of 150 Australian dollars (115 U.S. a tonne), honour its promise on compensation for Iraq trade sanctions and charge the U.S. Government rent on its military bases in Australia.

Australian farmers are hostile towards the U.S. Government, claiming it is largely to blame for current low wheat prices which have forced many Australian farmers into bankruptcy.

Figures issued by the Western Australian Farmers' Federation show that 75 per cent of broadacres farms (those producing wheat, wool and meat) will run at a trading loss in 1991-92.

And projections show that, if prices of commodities remain at the same level for another year, all farms in the state will trade at a loss.

"It is that catastrophic," said the federation's grains executive officer, Wayne Reynolds.

The first protest was organised by farmer Max Johnson, also from Morawa.

He said Monday he was concerned that three days after that action farmers may still not have conveyed their message to politicians.

"They are still not talking to us, and unless they do, this sort of action is going to grow out of all proportion," he said.

Asked why farmers felt so strongly, he said: "it is desperation. Last October a young farmer in New South Wales woke up one morning and said he had had enough. He put his gun to his wife's head, then to his two children and shot himself.

"I believe this sort of thing has also happened in Corrigin (Western Australia). We have had enough. We have to make the politicians realise we are hurting. We have to stop the bloody politicians and bureaucrats from bleeding us dry."

Fiji

Unions Impose Total Ban on Mining Company

BK1603094491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Vatukoula, Fiji, March 16 (AFP)—Fijian trade unions flexed their muscles here Saturday by imposing a total ban on the carting of goods and supplies to an Australian mining company.

At the centre of the dispute is Australian Emperor Gold Mines Co. Ltd., which is refusing to negotiate with around 900 striking workers in the west coast Fijian district.

Michael Columbus, president of the umbrella trade union movement, Fiji Trades Union Congress (FTUC), told a meeting of the strikers Saturday that embargoes would be imposed on the company from next week. He has directed individual unions, whose members are engaged in supplying oil and fuel supplies, or public servants and bank employees to impose sanctions "immediately".

Speaking at a public rally, Mr. Columbus said the oil ban would not yet apply to fuel necessary for maintaining the mine's electric powered telecommunications, water and other essential services. But he said civil servants would "take immediate action on the handling of all company incoming and outward bound cargo."

Emperor, operating here since 1935, is refusing to recognise the Fiji Mineworkers Union (FMWU), registered by the government last year. However it said it was willing to negotiate directly with employees on their demands for improved pay, housing, work conditions, but not through the union, which it claims has only 50 per cent membership in the mines.

Mr. Columbus said Saturday that the FTUC was receiving solidarity support from abroad and sanctions on Emperor could spread overseas if it does not negotiate with the FMWU. He said mine and metal workers' unions from Australia, Japan, the United States, Turkey and Austria had responded to FTUC's pleas.

The FTUC delegation urged the strikers, mainly ethnic Fijians or of Indian descent, to remain "peaceful in their demonstrations."

As the strike entered its 19th day, the union rejected government suggestions that it had not followed legal procedures for a strike.

Gold is Fiji's third largest commodity export, behind sugar and garments. It earns the Pacific island nation between 42 and 48 million dollars annually.

Opposition: Company Aided 1987 Coup

BK1803094991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Suva, March 18 (AFP)—Fiji's opposition party claimed Monday the government it formed in 1987 was overthrown thanks to "destabilisation activities" supported by an Australian mining company operating here. The opposition accused Jeffrey Reid, chairman of the strike-bound Emperor Gold Mines Company, of backing demonstrations in 1987 which prompted the first of two military coups.

"The catch-cry that he espoused, protection of indigenous Fijian rights, is now in direct conflict with his own economic interests," Navin Maharaj, secretary of National Federation-Fiji Labour Party coalition, said in a statement.

The Indian-majority coalition government was deposed by the Army, which said it acted to safeguard indigenous Fijian rights and to control widespread anti-government demonstrations.

The first roadblocks during the demonstrations were set up by Fijian villagers in the west coast town of Tavua, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the Emperor-operated gold mines in Vatukoula.

Mr. Reid denied that he supported the demonstrations and said the current 20-day strike by about 900 miners, mainly indigenous Fijians and some Indians, could not be seen on racist lines. Workers are striking over the company's refusal to recognise the Fiji Mineworkers Union and demands for better pay, housing and work conditions.

"This is a political strike and it has political overtones," he said.

Opposition sources say Emperor was reportedly unhappy with the coalition government's election in 1987, because of socialist plans that included nationalisation of the rich gold mine industry.

Mr. Maharaj accused Mr. Reid of "trying to manoeuvre the interim administration to destroy the workers and even to push them out off his land".

Mr. Reid denied the claim. However, Emperor obtained a high court order last week barring four miners from entering or picketing in the mine area.

Emperor's resident manager Andrew Cullum said the mine is still producing gold, though at a reduced capacity, despite a union- imposed ban on the supply of oil, fuel, and other goods as well as bank transactions for the company.

Mr. Maharaj accused the government of siding with Emperor and said the opposition wants the government to call a commission of inquiry and to "immediately and compulsorily recognise the mineworkers union."

Micronesia

President To Step Down on 10 May

BK1603110491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 16 Mar 91

[By Davendra Sharma]

[Text] Suva, March 16 (AFP)—As news of President John Haglelgam's election defeat hit the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), theories surfaced as to what cost him the polls. Mr. Haglelgam, a 41-year-old lawyer, will step down as president on May 10 as a result of his election defeat announced Friday.

He lost his Yap State election by 351 votes to Senator Joseph Urusemal, who spent "a greater deal of time in the constituency" and had the backing of local ceremonial chiefs, some regional diplomats said.

Mr. Haglelgam is said to have told government colleagues in FSM capital, Pohnpei, that he lacked the support of "most chiefs" in the Yap State, the smallest of FSM's four states, about 1,600 kilometres (990 miles) northwest of Port Moresby.

Fresh presidential elections from within the 14-member National Congress of FSM and between four likely candidates will be held on May 13.

"His unfortunate loss leaves the presidential election open to four candidates," Terry Gamabruw, special assistant to president for public information said by phone Saturday.

Ms. Gamabruw said the March 5 general elections were hotly contested with "an intense amount of campaigning this time. Probably that was what made the difference."

Government sources in Pohnpei said Mr. Haglelgam was investing "more time on building ties with foreign states and regional organisations than at home." But his drive to expand FSM's links also paid some dividends to the former U.S. territory.

He helped FSM last December earn international recognition by lobbying China, the United States, France, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand in a successful bid to urge the U.N. Security Council to terminate the U.N. trusteeship for FSM and the Marshall Islands.

The Security Council voted 14-1 in favour of ending the U.N. trusteeship for the two former U.S. trust territories, whose independence previously was disputed by the Soviet Union and others on the grounds that Washington still had defence authority over them.

The Compact of Free Association between the United States and FSM was signed in 1986 but Washington delayed seeking Security Council action fearing a Soviet veto.

Mr. Haglelgam took office in 1987 as FSM's second independence president. He has been instrumental in his country's admission to the Asian Development Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Asia/Pacific, South Pacific Forum and seven other regional groups, as well as in forging diplomatic ties with 18 independent states, including the Japan, China and Philippines, and members of the forum. But the European nations refused to recognise the legitimacy of their political status until the U.N. Security Council endorsement.

Mr. Haglelgam also courted economic links, especially in fishing, with Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States. He said in a recent interview that his top priority was raising the FSM's profile around the region, and at the same time creating self-reliance at home. He said he did not want the FSM to keep relying on the 95 million U.S. dollars granted by Washington each year.

Two other prominent politicians, including former FSM Vice- President Bailey Olter, are known to be vying for the presidency to succeed Mr. Haglelgam.

FSM Regional Ambassador Alik Alik, based here, said new economic policies were likely with a change in government.

"Economic development and the ways of going about it has been the centre of campaign there and I'm sure with a new president he will have a different focus," Mr. Alik said.

On four-year terms, businessman Jacob Nena was elected from Kosrae State, Senator Redley Killion was polled unopposed from Chuuk State, Senator Joseph Urusemal from Yap and Mr. Olter from Pohnpei. Each state elects four representatives to the Congress of Micronesia, which also houses 10 others on two-year terms.

Mr. Olter, former vice-president and current Pohnpei state director of treasurer, is the strongest contender for the presidency.

New Zealand

Government Ready for USSR Air Agreement

BK1803103091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Wellington, March 18 (AFP)—New Zealand was ready to negotiate an air services agreement with the Soviet Union, the Ministry of External Relations and Trade's European Division head, Hugo Judd, said here Monday.

Moscow has tried for years to bring Aeroflot charter flights into New Zealand to change the crews of Soviet fishing vessels but Wellington has resisted it.

Mr. Judd said New Zealand had told Moscow it was now ready to talk and was awaiting a reply.

"We assume that in doing so there will be reciprocal benefits for New Zealand in the end result," he said.

Papua New Guinea

New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Arrives

BK1603070691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] New Zealand's deputy prime minister, Mr. Don McKinnon, says the Bougainville peace process appears to be stalemated. Mr. McKinnon said there was little indication of the peace process moving to the next stage and there needed to be a clear understanding by both parties that there could be a peaceful resolution to the secessionist dispute. He said the first step needed to be an acceptance by both the Papua New Guinea Government and the leaders on Bougainville of the Honiara Accord.

Mr. McKinnon, who is also New Zealand's minister for external affairs and trade, was speaking at Port Moresby at the start of a five-day visit to Papua New Guinea. Mr McKinnon will meet Papua New Guinea ministers on Monday for talks on Bougainville.

EC To Provide $100 Million in Aid Over 5 Years

BK1803102491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] The European Community [EC] is to provide Papua New Guinea with more than [U.S.] $100 million in aid over the next 5 years under the Lome IV Convention. Under the terms of the agreement signed in Port Moresby, most of the aid will be used for secondary and tertiary education, including postgraduate study overseas, and the development of the rural areas.

A second agreement signed today provides diplomatic privileges for the EC delegation in Papua New Guinea.

The foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, welcomed the new assistance and said the EC had also promised $12 million to the government's rehabilitation program on Bougainville.